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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report examines statewide trends between 1990 and 1998 in the well-being of Arizona's children. The statistical portrait is based on several indicators of well-being, including: (1) children in poverty; (2) babies born at risk; (3) children in families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); (4) children in families receiving food stamps; (5) students approved for free/reduced price lunch; (6) school dropouts; (7) births to teens; (8) juvenile arrests; (9) juvenile arrests for violent crimes; (10) commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections; (11) reports of child abuse and neglect; and (12) children in foster care. Chapter 1 of the report indicates that progress has been made in reducing the teen birth rate, increasing the number of families receiving subsidies to help pay for child care, increasing the availability of publicly funded preschool programs, increasing the use of prenatal care, and reducing the arrest of juveniles for violent crimes. However, the rate of children growing up poor, the prevalence of school-age children with limited English skills, the percentage of children with no health insurance, and the incidence of babies born to mothers who are young, single, poor, or lack a high school diploma have all grown. Chapter 2 presents indicators on a county-by-county basis, revealing considerable variation in risk indicators by county. Chapter 3 explores the issue of children and violence. The report's appendices present state and county child populations and data notes and sources. (EV)

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Make Kids Count

ED 451 919

The State of Arizona's Children 2000

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October 2000

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Children's Action Alliance (CAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research, education and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of all of Arizona's children and families. Through research, publications, media campaigns, and advocacy, we act as a strong and independent voice for children. We work to educate the public and policymakers about children's needs and to promote effective strategies to improve the lives of children and their families.

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children growing up poor

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young, single, poor or uneducated mothers

INTRODUCTION

MAKE KIDS COUNT: THE STATE OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2000 is the fifth comprehensive look at the status of children and families in Arizona using indicators of child well-being and threats to child well-being in our state. The statistics included here have been collected and reported by state and federal government agencies. This report brings them together in one place to provide easy reference and to help identify areas for improvement and community action.

The report compares data that have been collected over several years, allowing us to examine trends in the condition of children during the 1990s. The report primarily compares indicators in 1990 with indicators in 1998. (In cases where comparable data were not available for those years, alternative years are compared.)

Chapter 1 presents statewide findings. It is important to measure success and, indeed, there has been significant improvement in several key areas. We can build on the progress we have made in reducing the teen birthrate, increasing the number of families receiving subsidies to help pay for child care, increasing the availability of publicly funded preschool programs, increasing the use of prenatal care, and reducing the arrest of juveniles for violent crimes.

But in other areas, threats to our children's well-being loom large, despite Arizona's overall economic prosperity during the 1990s. The rate of children growing up poor, the prevalence of school-aged children with limited English skills, the percentage of children with no health insurance and the incidence of babies born to moms who are young, single, poor, or lack a high school diploma have all grown dangerously higher. If left unaddressed, these conditions threaten the health and well-being of our children, our families, our workforce, our neighborhoods, and our economy for years to come.

Chapter 2 presents 12 indicators on a county-by-county basis. Breaking down the statewide data geographically demonstrates that few generalizations can be made that accurately describe all counties in our state. In fact, the variation across the state is striking. Not only are there wide variations among the counties for each indicator, but the trends over time vary considerably as well.

The multi-layered contributing factors to risks and trends in each county must ultimately be identified by the Arizonans who live there. It is our hope that the data displayed here will help community leaders, elected officials, service providers, community and faith-based organizations, parents, grandparents and businesses leaders focus attention and action on the particular problems and solutions in their own communities.

Chapter 3 explores an issue of great concern to parents, schools, taxpayers, law enforcement officers, and neighborhoods - kids and violence. By analyzing state and national data, this chapter turns the conventional wisdom about kids and violence upside down. The fact is that a child is far more likely to become a **victim** of violence at the hand of adults than to **commit** an act of violence. The chapter concludes with concrete strategies that work to keep kids away from violence and violence away from kids.

READING THE DATA

RATES: The statewide and county figures in the report show the number of Arizona children experiencing each indicator for 1998 (or the most recent year available). The figures also show the rate of occurrence of each indicator in 1990 and 1998 compared to the relevant child population. Some of these rates appear as percentages, a number per 100 children. For example, 23.5% of Arizona children lived in poverty in 1996. Other rates appear as numbers per 1,000 or 10,000 or 100,000 children. For example, 7.7 out of every 100,000 children in Arizona were killed by guns in 1998.

For the rate calculations, each indicator is compared to a specific child population that makes the most sense for that indicator. For example, the number of low birthweight babies is compared to the total number of births. The number of juvenile arrests is compared to the total number of children aged 8-17 because that is the population under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. For any indicator where an age range is unspecified, the rate calculation uses child population 0-17. The statewide and county child population statistics are shown in Appendices I and II.

In Chapter 2, the bar graphs compare specific indicator rates in each county to the statewide rate.

RATE CHANGE: The "rate change" figures show how much the occurrence of the indicator has increased or decreased between 1990 and 1998. The rate change is the percentage change between the rate in the base year and the rate in the most recent year. This calculation is important because it accounts for population growth. For example, if the number of infant deaths remained the same in 1990 and 1998 but the number of infants doubled, the infant death rate would have decreased.

DEFINITIONS OF INDICATORS: The definitions and sources of each indicator are described in Appendix III, Data Notes and Sources. The indicators are not listed alphabetically, they are grouped by category in the order in which they appear in the report.

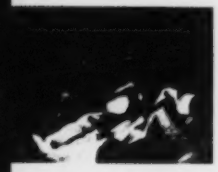
USING THE DATA

BEWARE OF SMALL NUMBERS: Some indicators occur so rarely that rates can vary considerably from year to year. Such variations may not truly reflect significant changes. This is especially true in counties with small populations. For this reason, no rate changes or rates are shown for several indicators in Chapter 2.

GO BEYOND THE NUMBERS: The data in this report are designed to measure trends. They can be a starting point for investigation and action to improve the quality of life for children and families. The statistics can be used to initiate research and dialogue, to answer questions about why things are moving in the direction they are and how they can be improved. Indicators in other counties or past years can be used as benchmarks to set goals and design strategies.

Indicators were chosen for this report based on availability, reliability, and consistency. Indicators were also chosen to convey meaningful information about children's lives. But numbers don't tell the whole story. They don't have personalities or relationships. It is up to us to use these statistics as

tools to ask and answer questions. It is up to us to use these statistics to design effective strategies that help parents give their children the health, education, safety, and security they need to make tomorrow's Arizona second to none.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Below is a list of simple actions every Arizonan can take to Make Kids Count:

REGISTER AND VOTE: Kids can't vote, but you can. Give your values some political muscle. Make your vote count for kids.

CONTACT CANDIDATES DIRECTLY: Introduce yourself and ask candidates about their positions on issues that matter to you. Tell them what you know, and voice your concerns about children. Ask for specific plans that will help children and families in your community.

CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS: Keep up the communication once candidates become elected officials. Kids and parents don't hire lobbyists to talk to legislators, so lawmakers need to hear from you. Call your senator and representatives or write a short letter or email. Legislators say that calls from constituents really do make a difference.

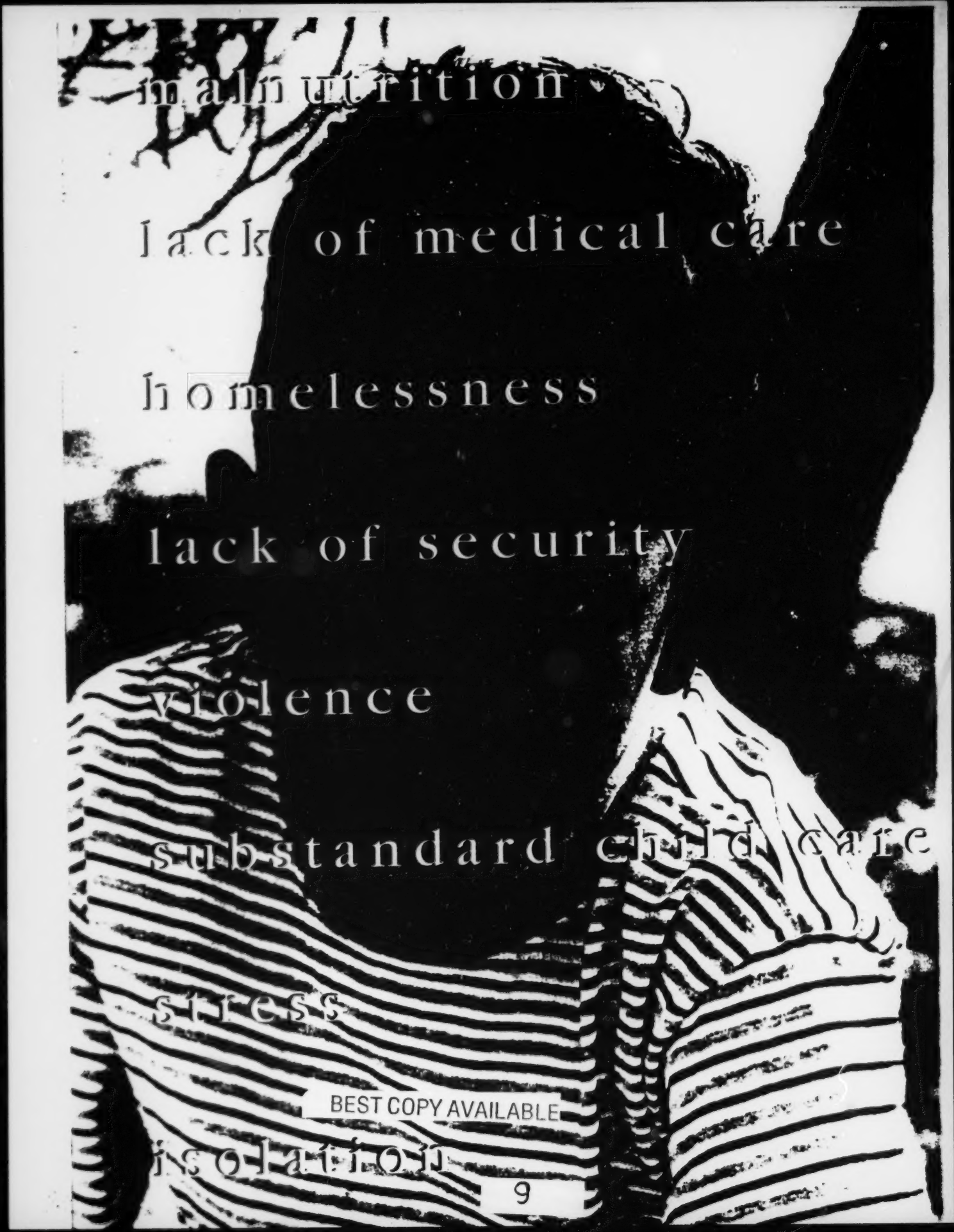
STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED: Keep your eye out for information about children. The Children's Action Alliance web site offers updates on children's issues around the state. Our address is www.azchildren.org. Sign up for our FAX/email alert network to get timely updates and action steps on critical issues. You can also use our webpage to link to other useful sites to learn about more about specific issues.

WRITE TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS, CALL RADIO SHOWS: Speak out about what parents and children need. Share your own perspective and story and talk about how public and community action can make a difference.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME OR MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A LOCAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Homeless shelters, schools, recreation centers and mentoring programs can make good use of your personal and financial resources. You can make a real difference to a real child.

MAKE YOUR POLITICAL DONATIONS COUNT FOR CHILDREN: If you donate to candidates, give your dollars to candidates who share your stand on children's issues. Include a letter with your check letting them know your support is linked to their stand for children.

MAKE KIDS COUNT: THE STATE OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2000 certainly does not tell us everything we need to know about children in Arizona. But the indicators covering a wide variety of areas and an eight-year span of time do tell us a number of true and important stories about their lives and futures. We can learn from these stories. We can also rewrite them. Through action in our own families, neighborhoods and communities, as well as action at the state capitol, we have the power to change the future.



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This chapter presents statewide trends in 41 indicators of child well-being. Figures 1 and 2 display summaries of these trends. Figures 3 through 14 display the rates and trends in the specific indicators, grouped into the following categories:

- Families at Risk
- Children Receiving Public Services
- Health and Safety
- Early Care and Education
- Teens at Risk
- Juvenile Justice
- Child Abuse and Neglect

How Well Are Our Children Doing?

Rate Trends From 1990 to 1998

Families at Risk	
Child Poverty*	Worse
Babies Born at Risk	Worse
Health and Safety	
Children Without Health Insurance†	Much Worse
Births Without Adequate Prenatal Care	Much Better
Low Birthweight Babies	Worse
Gun-Related Deaths	Much Worse
Early Care and Education	
Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies	Better
State-Regulated Child Care Spaces	Much Better
Publicly Funded Preschool	Much Better
Teens at Risk	
School Drop-Outs^	Better
Births to Teens	Much Better
Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes	Better
Juveniles Tried in Adult Court#	Much Worse
Child Abuse and Neglect (1991 to 1999)	
Children in Foster Care	Much Worse

Much better or worse indicates a change of 25% or more.

*1989 compared to 1996.

†Average of 1988-92 compared to average of 1994-98.

^1994/95 compared to 1997/98.

#1994 compared to 1998.

Figure 1

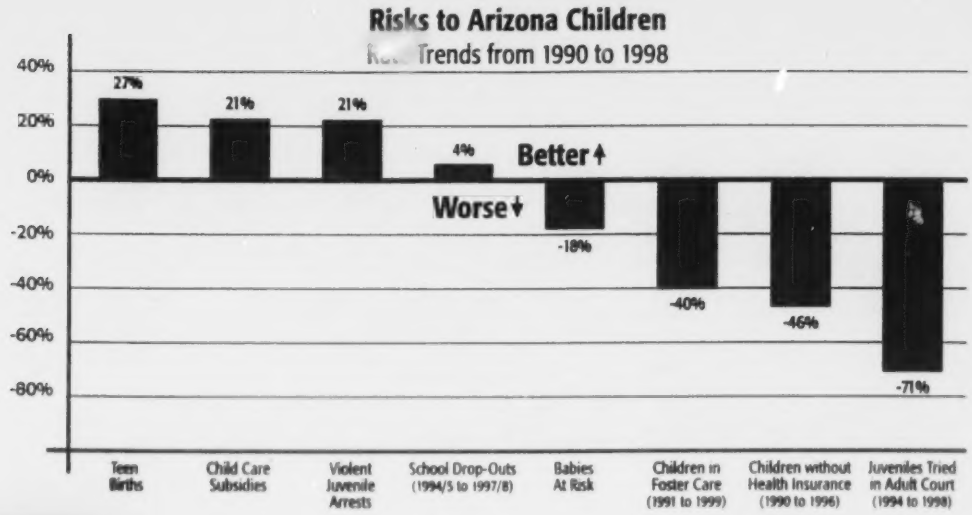

Figure 2

FAMILIES AT RISK

CHILD POVERTY: The most consistent and critical factor that threatens a child's well-being and capacity to reach his or her potential is poverty. It is not only a lack of material things that causes harm. It is malnutrition and a lack of medical care. It is homelessness and a lack of security. It is being surrounded by violence. It is being left alone or in substandard child care while parents are at work. It is the overwhelming stress and isolation that can cause families to crumble.

Research studies repeatedly confirm that the more time a child spends in poverty, the worse the consequences.[1] Poor children have more health and behavioral problems,[2] fewer years of education, and poorer performance in school.[3] Poor children are also more likely to become teen mothers[4], have lower IQs[5], and achieve lower economic productivity later in life.[6]

Despite great economic growth, Arizona's child poverty rate grew worse between 1990 and 1998 (shown in Figure 3). Arizona's child poverty rate remains above the national average: 23.5% in Arizona compared to 20.5% nationally in 1996. Thirty-seven states have lower child poverty rates than Arizona.[7]

In 1996, nearly 1 in 4 children in Arizona lived in poverty, meaning that family income for a family of four was below $15,600 a year (the federal poverty level varies by family size and is adjusted each year to reflect inflation). The economic expansion of the 1990s has left nearly 300,000 Arizona children behind, growing up at high risk for future disaster.

Families at Risk

	1998 Number	1990 Rate	1998 Rate	Rate Change
Children in poverty*	296,088	22.0%	23.5%	7% worse
Babies born at risk	30,262	32.9%	38.8%	18% worse

*Compares 1989 with 1996.

Figure 3

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BABIES BORN AT RISK: Babies who are born to poor mothers face well-documented risks and challenges throughout their lives. Research also demonstrates that babies who are born to teen moms, single moms, or moms without high school diplomas face similar risks and challenges.[8] Even hardworking and nurturing parents can easily become overwhelmed by these family circumstances. The greater the accumulation of these risk factors, the worse the consequences for children.[9]

Using data from birth certificates collected by the Office of Vital Records in the Arizona Department of Health Services, we developed a new indicator to measure the number of babies born to mothers facing two or more of these four risk factors.

Babies Born at Risk

Risk Factors:
- Mother younger than age 20
- Mother with less than a high school degree
- Single mother
- Mother with low-income

Babies Born With 2 or More Risk Factors

Figure 4

These numbers tell a troubling story. As illustrated in Figure 4, 39% of all babies born in Arizona in 1998 faced two or more of these risk factors — more than 30,000 babies. This rate is up 18% from 1990. The drop in the teen birthrate between 1990 and 1998 was overshadowed by increases in all three of the other risk factors. A national report released by The Annie E. Casey Foundation in 1999 ranked Arizona 49th worst in the nation in babies born to mothers without a high school education, 46th worst in babies born to single mothers, and 38th worst in babies born to teen moms.[10]

CHILDREN RECEIVING PUBLIC SERVICES

Several programs have been developed over the years to create a safety net that helps poor parents meet the basic needs of their children, such as food, shelter, and health care. The data in Figure 5 show a combination of increases and decreases in the use of safety net public services during the 1990s. The use of these services has been profoundly affected by federal and state welfare reforms in the mid-1990s.

The percentage of children in families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) — often referred to as welfare — and Food Stamps grew between 1990 and 1994, then dropped dramatically. The 1998 rate of children participating in both programs was below the rate in 1990. This decline can be attributed, in part, to a strong state economy and very low unemployment rates. Also, adjusting for inflation, the income eligibility threshold for TANF was lower in 1998 than in 1990, meaning that families had to be more desperately poor to qualify for help.

In addition, in 1995 Arizona enacted welfare reform measures including time limits on TANF benefits, the reduction and loss of benefits for families who don't comply with all requirements and an emphasis on parents moving off the TANF rolls and into employment as quickly as possible. These policy changes have clearly pushed the number of children receiving TANF benefits down.

Although these policy changes did not affect eligibility for Food Stamps or AHCCCS health insurance, the rate of children receiving these benefits dropped, as well. Many parents are simply unaware that they can continue to receive these benefits for their children even after their eligibility for TANF ends.[11] And state procedures in place until recently required parents to repeat difficult enrollment

Children Receiving Public Services

	1998 Number	1990 Rate	1998 Rate	Rate Change
Children in families receiving TANF	83,520	8.5%	6.7%	-20%
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	177,604	16.2%	14.2%	-12%
Average monthly participation in WIC (0-4)	106,878	16.7%	29.2%	75%
Public school students approved for school lunch program*	407,802	36.1%	51.8%	44%
Children enrolled in AHCCCS (0-19)	245,192	18.5%	17.5%	-5%
Births covered by AHCCCS	31,753	29.3%	41.4%	41%

*Compares 1989/90 school year with 1998/99 school year.

Figure 5

paperwork and appointments even when their children clearly remained eligible for AHCCCS and Food Stamps.

There are an estimated 187,000 children in Arizona who are income-eligible for health insurance through AHCCCS but are not enrolled.[12] In focus groups conducted by Children's Action Alliance in late 1998, parents reported that excessive paperwork, burdensome appointment procedures, and demeaning interactions with state agency staff discouraged them from enrolling their children in AHCCCS.[13]

A variety of recent studies have examined the condition of families who have stopped receiving TANF benefits. The vast majority of these families continue to have extremely low incomes and a great need for safety net programs.[14] This need is reflected in the increasing rates of children participating in the Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), children approved for subsidies in the federal school lunch program and births paid for by AHCCCS.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

HEALTH INSURANCE: The percentage of Arizona children with no health insurance continues to climb and remains one of the highest rates in the nation. Estimates of the percentage and number of uninsured children vary. Using a 5-year average of Current Population Survey data from the U.S. Census from 1994 through 1998, nearly 1 in 4 children in Arizona have no health coverage (see Figure 6). This rate is up 46% compared with the 5-year average of 1988 through 1992. According to the 1999 March Supplement to the Current Population Survey, 370,000 Arizona children have no health insurance.

The 1998 figures shown here predate the implementation of KidsCare, Arizona's new children's health insurance program that began operation in November 1998. By July 2000, more than 35,000

children were enrolled in KidsCare. The publicity and enrollment improvements associated with KidsCare have led to the coverage of an additional 38,000 children through AHCCCS. These enrollment increases are helping to offset the drop in AHCCCS enrollment that occurred both as a result of welfare reform and the decline in employment-based, private health coverage of children.

Health and Safety

	1998 Number	1990 Rate	1998 Rate	Rate Change
Children without health insurance*	370,000	16.5%	24.1%	46% worse
Births to women with inadequate prenatal care	5,497	9.9%	7.0%	28% better
Low birthweight babies	5,317	6.5%	6.8%	6% worse
Fully immunized two-year olds†	56,156	77.0%	78.0%	statistically equivalent
Reported cases of STDs (0-19)	5,528	4.3 per 1,000	4.0 per 1,000	no measurable trend
Diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS (0-19)	8	1.4 per 100,000	0.6 per 100,000	no measurable trend
Infant deaths	592	8.8 per 1,000	7.6 per 1,000	13% better
Child deaths (1-14)	305	32.6 per 100,000	30.1 per 100,000	8% better
Drowning deaths (0-4)	28	5.6 per 100,000	7.6 per 100,000	no measurable trend
Gun-related deaths (0-19)	108	5.8 per 100,000	7.7 per 100,000	33% worse

*Compares average of 1988-92 to average of 1994-98.

†Compares 1994 with 1997.

Figure 6

EARLY HEALTH CARE: Research has shown that a child's healthy development can be facilitated or threatened in the prenatal stage. The rate of pregnant women receiving inadequate prenatal care (fewer than five prenatal health care visits) improved by 28% between 1990 and 1998. Despite this improvement in prenatal care, the low birthweight rate (babies weighing less than 2,501 grams at birth) got 6% worse. The infant death rate, on the other hand, improved by 13%.

In 1997, 78% of two-year-old children in Arizona had received all of their required immunizations, leaving 22% at risk for life-threatening and debilitating disease. The 1994 and 1997 immunization rates are considered statistically equivalent.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE: The reported rate of sexually transmitted disease among children declined by 8% between 1990 and 1998. Although the numbers are too small to reliably measure a trend, the rate of children diagnosed with HIV or AIDS also dropped.

CHILD DEATHS: While the overall death rate of children aged 1-14 improved by 8%, the drowning rate for children aged 0-4 and the rate of children killed by guns both grew by more than 24%. Although still much higher than 1990, the gun-related child death rate has been falling since 1994.

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EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

CHILD CARE: Measuring the amount of child care that is available is difficult because many parents use informal child care arrangements, such as grandparents and neighbors. And home child care businesses for fewer than five children remain unregulated. State-regulated child care spaces reported in Figure 7 include: child care centers licensed by the Department of Health Services, family child care homes certified by the Department of Economic Security, family child care homes certified by the Department of Education, day care group homes certified by the Department of Health Services and child care centers operated by public schools (in 1998 only).

Between 1990 and 1998, the availability of these child care options expanded by 52%. More than one fifth of this increase, however, was due to a definitional change. Prior to 1996, child care centers operated by public schools were unregulated by the state and were not included in this indicator. Beginning in 1996, these child care centers are now required to be licensed, adding approximately 21,000 spaces to the 1998 number shown in Figure 7.

Child care remains unaffordable for many working families in Arizona. Costs can range from $4,000 to $6,000 a year for full-time care for a preschool-aged child,[15] while median family income is below $35,000. Publicly funded child care subsidies are available to help offset the costs of care for families within specified income categories. Due to federal mandates and federal block grant funding as part of welfare reform, the rate of children receiving child care subsidies increased by 21% between 1990 and 1998.

Early Care and Education

	1998 Number	1990 Rate	1998 Rate	Rate Change
State regulated child care spaces (0-12)	153,582	11.0%	16.7%	52% better
Children receiving child care subsidies (0-12)	31,508	2.8%	3.4%	21% better
Publicly-funded preschool spaces* (3-4)	30,525	11.7%	20.9%	79% better
Students with limited English proficiency†	111,207	10.2%	14.3%	41% worse

*Compares 1990/91 school year with 1998/99.

†Compares 1989/90 school year with 1997/98.

Figure 7

Unfortunately, the subsidies fall short of the actual cost of child care. Even with the subsidy, families earning just above the poverty level can face out-of-pocket child care costs of $100 or more per child each month. Although the state increased the subsidy rates significantly in fiscal years 1999 and 2000, they are still based on the costs of care in 1996 and do not reflect today's higher costs.

PRESCHOOL: An infusion of both state and federal funds has increased the availability of publicly funded preschool programs for disadvantaged children in Arizona, including Head Start and Arizona's Success By 6 preschool programs. In 1990 there were spaces in publicly funded preschool programs for 12% of Arizona's three- and four-year-old children. That increased dramatically to 21% in 1998.

Research from fields as various as criminology, psychology, and education finds that strong preschool

programs coupled with family support decrease school failure, out-of-wedlock births, and delinquency.[9] But the expansion and even continuation of these preschool programs is threatened by current state policy. The Student's First school capital finance system does not count preschool students in its space allocation formula, therefore putting pressure on crowded and growing school districts to remove preschool programs from their facilities. In addition, the structure and allocation of state block grant funding for early childhood programs discourage some school districts from using this funding for preschool.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: Lack of English proficiency can pose a serious barrier to finishing high school and getting a well-paying job. In the 1997/98 school year, one in seven public school students in Arizona were identified as "limited English proficient," indicating that their lack of English could interfere with their learning and academic success. The rate of limited English proficient students has grown 41% since 1990. State law requires school districts to provide voluntary programs or instruction to help these students learn enough English so that they can keep up their academic progress in English-only classes.

TEENS AT RISK

SCHOOL DROPOUTS: Methodology changes prevent meaningful comparisons of dropout rates prior to the 1994/95 school year. Between 1994/95 and 1997/98, the dropout rate improved slightly as displayed in Figure 8. The 1997/98 dropout rate for grades 7-12 was 8.5%, while the dropout rate for grades 9-12 was 11.5%. This means that more than one of every nine high school students dropped out in 1998. Census data show that Arizona continues to have one of the highest rates of teenagers who are school dropouts in the nation.

BIRTHS TO TEENS: In 1998, more than 3,400 Arizona babies were born to mothers younger than 18, putting them at risk for poverty and intense family stress. Fortunately, Arizona's teen birthrate

Teens at Risk

	1998 Number	1990 Rate	1998 Rate	Rate Change
Teens dropped out of school* (grades 7-12)	31,965	8.8%	8.5%	4% better
Births to teens (girls aged 10-17)	3,407	17.9%	13.0%	27% better
Teen deaths (15-19)	298	90.1 per 100,000	88.0 per 100,000	2% better
Teen homicides (15-19)	55	10.7 per 100,000	16.2 per 100,000	51% worse
Teen suicides (15-19)	50	16.0 per 100,000	14.8 per 100,000	8% better
Gun-related teen deaths (15-19)	86	20.6 per 100,000	25.4 per 100,000	23% worse

*Compares 1994/95 school year with 1997/98.

Figure 8

dropped by 27% between 1990 and 1998. This decline follows the national trend that has been shaped by both increased abstinence among teens and an increased use of contraception among sexually active teens.[17] Despite this improvement, however, Arizona continues to have one of the highest teen birthrates in the nation.

Teen Deaths Due to Guns

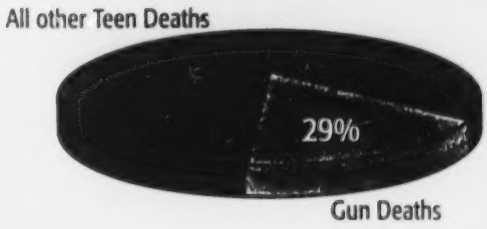

Figure 9

TEEN DEATHS: The overall teen death rate improved slightly between 1990 and 1998. The teen homicide rate and the teen death rate due to guns, on the other hand, increased significantly. The proportion of total teen deaths due to homicide rose from one in nine in 1990 to one in six in 1998. And, as shown in Figure 9, 29% of all teen deaths in 1998 were caused by guns.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

ARRESTS: Figure 10 shows that the rate of total juvenile arrests declined by 5% between 1990 and 1998. These arrests cover a wide range of violations, including disorderly conduct, shoplifting, drug and alcohol possession, and curfew violations. The arrest rate for runaway and curfew violations rose by 13% and the arrest rate for drug crimes more than tripled. Both increases were caused, in large part, by increased enforcement.

The arrest rate for violent crimes fell by 21%. These arrests for violations such as murder, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault made up only 3% of all juvenile arrests.

Juvenile Justice (Youth Aged 8-17)

	1998 Number	1990 Rate	1998 Rate	Rate Change
Juvenile arrests*	64,419	100.7 per 1,000	95.3 per 1,000	5% better
Juvenile arrests for drug crimes*	5,438	2.4 per 1,000	8.1 per 1,000	238% worse
Juvenile arrests for runaway and curfew violations*	14,359	18.8 per 1,000	21.3 per 1,000	13% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes*	1,940	3.7 per 1,000	2.9 per 1,000	21% better
Commitments to Department of Juvenile Corrections†	1,800	2.2 per 1,000	2.7 per 1,000	20% worse
Average monthly juvenile population in secure care†	932	9.5 per 10,000	13.9 per 10,000	46% worse
Juveniles tried in adult court^	1,083	9.5 per 10,000	16.2 per 10,000	71% worse

*Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

†Compares fiscal year 1993 with fiscal year 1998.

^Compares fiscal year 1994 with fiscal year 1998.

Figure 10

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CASE CONSEQUENCES: Once a youth is arrested, there are a variety of methods for handling his or her case, including dismissal, probation, diversion programs, commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections, and charges filed in adult court. While the arrest rate for violent crimes has been falling, the use of the most punitive consequences for juveniles has been growing.

According to state policy, commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections should be reserved for those juveniles who require treatment and confinement in secure care for the protection of the public.[18] Yet, the rates of commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections and placement in secure care rose significantly between 1993 and 1998, while the juvenile violent arrest rate fell over the same period (from 3.7 juveniles per 1,000 in 1993 to 2.9 per 1,000 in 1998).

The juvenile population in secure care increased despite caps on the secure care population imposed by a legal consent decree in effect from 1993 to 1997. This may be due, in part, to legislation implemented in fiscal year 1996 that altered sentencing policies and may have resulted in longer sentences in secure care.

Fewer Juveniles Arrested for Violent Crime But More Prosecuted in Adult Court

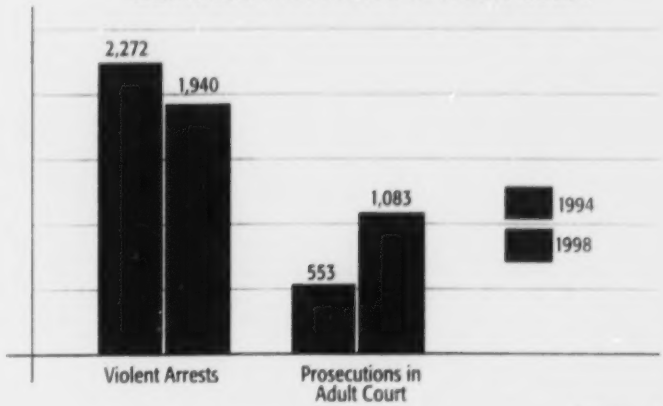
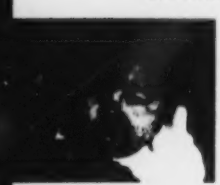


Figure 11

Arizona has also shifted policy to make it more likely that juveniles will be tried in adult court. Proposition 102 passed by Arizona voters in 1996, as well as subsequent legislation, requires the direct filing of charges in adult court for juveniles who are older than 14 and have been arrested for specific types of violent crimes. In addition, juvenile court judges may transfer other cases to adult court.

Figure 11 shows the consequences of this policy shift. While the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes actually fell between 1994 and 1998, the number of juveniles charged in adult court rose significantly.

There is no evidence, however, that juvenile offenders who are tried in adult court are more successful or have better outcomes than juveniles whose cases are handled in juvenile court. In fact, just the opposite is true. Youth transferred to adult court are more likely to recidivate than young offenders not transferred to adult court - even when they have committed the same kind of crime.[19] And several investigations have found that transfers of juveniles to adult court have no positive effect on crime deterrence.[20]



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Figure 12 displays indicators of child abuse and neglect in state fiscal years 1991 and 1999. The rate of reports of child abuse and neglect to Child Protective Services (CPS) rose by 8% during this period.

RESPONSE TO CPS REPORTS: In 1991, only 89% of the reports were investigated by CPS —

leaving 2,727 reports of abuse and neglect with no investigation at all due to a lack of staff resources. This compares to an 81% CPS investigation rate in 1999. However, in 1998, a program called Family Builders was initiated in Maricopa and Pima counties to provide social services to families with low-risk reports of abuse and neglect rather than a CPS investigation.

Child Abuse and Neglect

	1999 Number	1991 Rate	1999 Rate	Rate Change
Reports of child abuse and neglect	32,639	2.4%	2.6%	8%
CPS Investigations (per report)	26,431	88.7%	81.0%	-9%
CPS reports substantiated (per report investigated)	5,680	52.5%	25.2%	-52%
Family Builders Referral Rate (per report)	6,055	NA	18.6%	NA
Family Builders Services (per family referred)	1,607	NA	28.2%	NA
Children in foster care	7,087	4.0 per 1,000	5.6 per 1,000	40%

Figure 12

Through Family Builders, CPS refers potential and low-risk reports to a contracted network of community-based agencies. It is the responsibility of these agencies to respond to all referrals and to offer voluntary services to the families. In 1999, 18.5% of the reports to CPS were referred to Family Builders.

Adding together the number of reports investigated by CPS and the number referred to Family Builders totals a 99.5% "response rate" to reports of abuse and neglect. This response rate reported by CPS is deceptive, however, because the vast majority of these families did not receive actual services or follow-up to make sure that children were safe.

LARGE DECLINE IN SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE AND NEGLECT: When a CPS investigation finds that abuse or neglect has occurred, it is called a "substantiated report." Figure 13 shows a precipitous and potentially dangerous decline in the percentage of CPS investigations that substantiated abuse or neglect. The rate of substantiated reports fell from 52% in 1991 to 45% in 1997 and down to 25% in 1999. It is unlikely that this drop reflects an actual decline in child abuse and neglect. Instead, it has been caused, in large part, by a variety of policy changes.

Effective January 1, 1998, a new state law changed the process by which child abuse reports are substantiated. With the new law, people suspected of abuse or neglect are allowed to appeal a substantiation finding. A higher level of evidence must now be obtained and documented to substantiate abuse or neglect.[21] It is possible that CPS workers are not substantiating some cases of abuse and neglect because they are reluctant to subject themselves to the new appeals process. In addition, some findings of abuse or neglect are overturned on appeal because the necessary documentation and evidence are lacking.

The initiation of the appeals process also led to a policy and practice change that narrowed the

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definition of a substantiated report. In the past, reports could be substantiated based on documented risk factors that created a climate for abuse or neglect to occur. These cases were substantiated as "potential" abuse or neglect. Effective in January 1999, substantiation of a report requires a finding that abuse or neglect has already occurred.

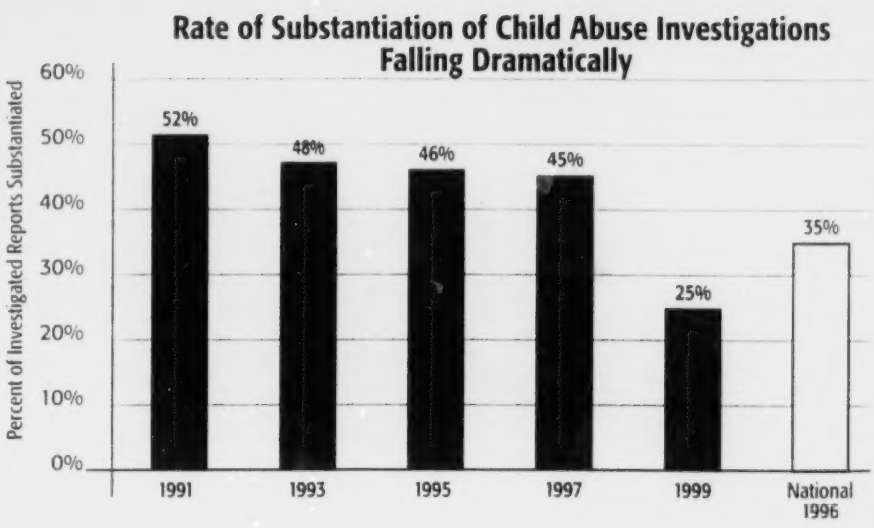

Figure 13

The huge decline in substantiated reports sends a warning signal that thousands of children may be left in dangerous situations with no help. In 1996, the average substantiation rate for 40 states with available data was 35.2%[22] — far above Arizona's 1999 25% rate. And with the implementation of Family Builders, it might have been expected that Arizona's substantiation rate would rise rather than fall, because CPS investigations are now reserved for the most serious reports.

LACK OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES: Even when abuse or neglect is substantiated, many children are left with no services and no follow-up. In more than two-thirds of the cases that were referred to Family Builders, the children were never even seen because the families declined any participation. The 6,055 referrals to Family Builders involved 5,696 families. Of those families, only 1,607 accepted Family Builders services.[23] And even among those families, many did not receive all of the services they needed, both because families often failed to follow through and because agencies were unable to provide the services.[24]

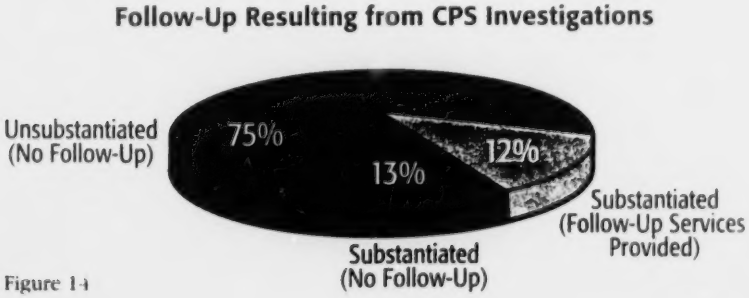

Figure 14

On the CPS side, fewer than 15% of the investigated reports ultimately resulted in services for families (See Figure 14). As noted above, only 25% of the investigations were substantiated during state fiscal year 1999. Families in the 75% of the investigations that were not substantiated received no case management or follow-up services from CPS (although they might have been referred to voluntary services).

In addition, more than half of the cases that were substantiated were closed without case management or follow-up services. Between April and September 1999, 54% of the investigated reports with substantiated findings of abuse or neglect were closed immediately after investigation with no further follow-up.[25] While circumstances in these families may not have been dangerous

enough to warrant placing the children in foster care, it is clear that without help, their problems could escalate into emergency proportions.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: There is further evidence that a lack of resources limits the help we offer families even after abuse or neglect has been confirmed. Between April and September 1999, only half of the children in foster care received the required one visit per month from a CPS caseworker or any other professional in the CPS system.[26] That left more than 3,000 children waiting without personal contact to help them move into permanent homes.

Despite the tremendous decline in the substantiation rate, the rate of children living in foster care has risen from 4.0 per 1,000 in 1991 to 5.0 per 1,000 in 1997 to 5.6 per 1,000 in 1999. This growth in foster care tells us that we are failing to move children into safe, permanent, and nurturing homes within a reasonable amount of time.

WHY DO THESE NUMBERS MATTER?

CHILD POVERTY: Growing up in very low income families has been associated with multiple negative outcomes for children, including less adequate prenatal care, low birthweight, higher infant mortality, slower cognitive development, lower levels of school readiness and lower levels of educational and socioeconomic attainment as adults.

BABIES BORN AT RISK: Parenting is always a challenging role. Parents who have risk factors (such as being a teen, being single, having no high school diploma or having a low income) face additional hardships and a higher likelihood of problems as their children grow up. While the presence of any single risk factor can threaten child well-being, research has demonstrated that the accumulation of risk factors multiplies the threat of negative outcomes. One study concluded that the presence of two risk factors is four times as bad for children, and four risk factors are ten times as bad as only one risk factor.

CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE: Without access to doctors, hospitals and medicine, children are more likely to suffer disease, disability and death — much of it preventable. Children in upper income families generally have private health insurance. Many children in poor and middle-income families who are eligible for health insurance through AHCCCS or KidsCare are not enrolled due to social and practical barriers. As the availability and affordability of employer-based health insurance diminishes, more and more children in working families have no health care coverage.

INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE: The receipt of early and ongoing prenatal care increases the chances of delivering healthy, full-term, normal weight babies. Adequate prenatal care can encourage good health habits during pregnancy and can lead to early detection of medical problems. Early care can also reduce health care costs for neonatal intensive care.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT: The weight of a baby at birth is a key indicator of newborn health, and is directly related to infant survival, health and development. Low birthweight infants are more likely to die during the first year. When they live, they

are more likely to experience disabilities and health problems that interfere with normal development and progress in school, such as mental retardation, visual and hearing defects and learning difficulties.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Immunizing children on time effectively protects them from a host of debilitating and sometimes deadly childhood diseases. The Federal Public Health Service currently recommends that children receive six different vaccines (all requiring multiple doses) before children start school, most before age two. Regular immunizations can help connect the family with an ongoing source of health care, so that immunization status may also be a proxy measure for access to well-child care.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE, AIDS AND HIV AMONG TEENS: Sexually-transmitted diseases are indicators of adolescent risk-taking behaviors: unprotected sexual activity and drug use. They are also a measure of teens' access to health education, health care and family planning services.

STATE AND FEDERAL CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES: The affordability of child care is a significant issue for many families. Poor families spend a substantially greater proportion of their income on child care than do non-poor families. (A minimum wage job pays less than $11,000 per year. Child care for one child in Arizona costs between $4,000 and $6,000 per year.)

STATE-REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACES: When parents go to work, children need to be cared for in settings that protect their physical health and safety, provide plenty of individual attention and support their social and intellectual development. Child care businesses that care for fewer than five children are not regulated in Arizona. State regulations are designed to establish minimum health and safety standards; they do not require or ensure high quality child care.

PUBLICLY-FUNDED PRESCHOOL: Children's experiences during early childhood affect later success in school. Research shows that high-quality early childhood programs and parenting education (such as the federally-funded Head Start program) can improve the development of young children who are at risk of failure in school due to poverty or other risk factors. Longitudinal studies indicate that disadvantaged children who participated in these preschool programs are more likely to achieve success in school and work as they grow up.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: Lack of English proficiency can pose a serious barrier to succeeding in school, graduating from high school and getting a well-paying job. Language proficiency and education tie directly to employment, employability and access to services.

SCHOOL DROP-OUTS: Youths who drop out of school are significantly less likely to be regularly employed well into their twenties. They are also more likely to be incarcerated. The jobs available to those who have no high school diploma are often unstable, do not pay well and have limited opportunities for upward mobility. The school dropout rate also diminishes the ability of employers to find educated, proficient employees.

TEEN BIRTHS: Single teen parenthood is a predictor of future economic hardship for both parent and child. Young mothers are less likely to finish high school and are far more likely to be poor, unmarried and welfare dependent than those giving birth at later ages. Children born to single teen mothers are much more likely to be poor, both as children and as adults.

TEEN HOMICIDE: Murders of teens is an indicator of teen delinquent behavior, anger and community violence. It is also a reflection of access to firearms. Most teenage murder victims are killed by other teenagers. Drug use is commonly associated with teen homicides.

TEEN SUICIDE: The incidence of teen suicide is an indicator of overwhelming teenage stress, inadequate mental health services, lack of community and family support and access to guns.

JUVENILES COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS: This measure reflects a failure of communities to prevent youth crisis and a lack of response to warning signals. A study of juveniles released from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections in calendar year 1996 reveals that the majority of youth who had been in the Department's custody had experienced school failure and/or drug or alcohol problems. Many had reported being the victim of serious physical or emotional abuse; close to half had caregivers with substance abuse problems.

JUVENILES PROSECUTED IN ADULT COURT: This figure is an indicator of community response to juvenile crime. Generally, the goals of prosecutions in adult court are protection of the community and punishment of the offender. The goals of juvenile court, on the other hand, are protection of the community and rehabilitation and treatment of the offender. The number of juveniles prosecuted in adult court is also an indicator of future risk to these youths. Youths held in adult facilities are much more likely to report being victims of rape and beatings than youth held in juvenile facilities.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: Child abuse or neglect can result in physical harm, death or profound developmental and behavioral problems. Abused and neglected children are at greater risk of delinquent behavior and of mistreating their own children. The number of substantiated cases of abuse or neglect suggests the extent to which children's security is threatened rather than protected by the adults on whom they are most dependent.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: The number of children in foster care reflects social and family conditions which pose substantial risk to children. Family instability, poverty, crime, violence, homelessness, substance abuse and serious illness may contribute to the need to find alternative care.

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CHAPTER 2: COUNTY FINDINGS

In this chapter, we report twelve indicators on a county by county basis. Breaking down the statewide data geographically demonstrates that few generalizations can be made that accurately describe all communities in our state. For rates of specific indicators, the variation across the state is striking. For many indicators, on the other hand, the trends over time tend to follow similar patterns across the state. In other words, indicators that improved statewide also improved in most counties and indicators that got worse statewide also got worse in most counties.

In about half the counties, indicators showed a consistent pattern compared to the state as a whole. In other words, all indicators were better than the statewide average or all indicators were worse than the statewide average. The rest of the counties had a mixed record with some indicators better than average and others worse than average.

County Overview 1998

	Children	Poverty 1995	Babies Born At-Risk	Receiving TANF	Receiving Food Stamps	Free/Reduced School Lunch 98/99 School Yr.
Apache	27,933	46.1%	51.1%	19.9%	42.1%	77.3%
Cochise	31,581	29.2%	37.4%	9.5%	20.5%	51.0%
Coconino	35,605	26.1%	36.9%	6.6%	17.1%	56.6%
Gila	12,720	28.4%	46.7%	13.3%	27.6%	56.6%
Graham	10,531	29.6%	39.1%	8.5%	18.9%	48.2%
Greenlee	3,266	12.4%	†	3.3%	7.0%	15.5%
La Paz	3,579	33.8%	55.0%	12.3%	24.8%	74.3%
Maricopa	737,550	21.5%	37.8%	5.3%	10.3%	45.2%
Mohave	28,914	25.9%	37.6%	9.5%	24.8%	50.9%
Navajo	36,011	36.5%	47.0%	12.6%	28.7%	75.3%
Pima	199,328	25.8%	36.6%	6.9%	15.0%	53.5%
Pinal	42,334	31.6%	51.9%	10.8%	19.9%	63.9%
Santa Cruz	13,039	32.8%	40.2%	5.7%	17.3%	70.6%
Yavapai	31,697	20.8%	37.9%	4.4%	10.9%	45.8%
Yuma	39,294	33.5%	44.8%	7.7%	22.5%	70.7%
ARIZONA	1,253,379	24.7%	38.8%	6.7%	14.2%	51.8%

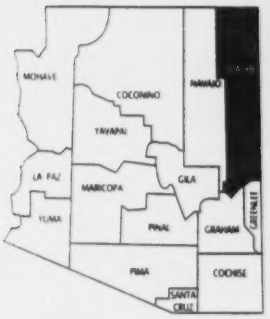
†Number too small to calculate meaningful rate.

County Overview 1998

	Drop Outs (97/98)	Teen Births (per 1,000)	Juvenile Arrests (per 1,000)	Arrests for Violent Crimes (per 1,000)	Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (per 1,000)	Foster Care (1999) (per 1,000)
Apache	9.9%	9.2	18.4	0.1	0.4	0.9
Cochise	7.5%	11.8	134.9	3.3	2.9	6.0
Coconino	9.2%	6.7	88.4	3.1	1.7	2.5
Gila	9.8%	18.8	137.6	2.7	3.4	7.3
Graham	5.8%	11.7	118.3	5.0	3.9	0.2
Greenlee	2.3%	17.5	59.2	0.5	0	9.2
La Paz	10.7%	14.7	93.6	1.0	2.1	1.4
Maricopa	7.9%	13.1	81.3	2.9	2.5	5.4
Mohave	11.0%	11.9	159.7	3.6	3.7	4.8
Navajo	9.2%	12.5	70.2	1.8	0.7	2.1
Pima	9.5%	13.0	161.6	3.7	3.9	8.8
Pinal	14.5%	17.9	96.1*	3.8*	3.8	4.3
Santa Cruz	7.1%	15.1	33.5	1.2	1.8	1.3
Yavapai	5.2%	11.8	112.7	2.9	1.8	5.7
Yuma	6.9%	15.5	19.2*	0.1*	3.5	4.5
ARIZONA	8.5%	13.0	95.3*	2.9*	2.7	5.6

*Arrest data for these counties and the state totals are incomplete due to non- or partial reporting from area police departments and/or sheriff's offices.

CHILDREN IN APACHE COUNTY - 1998

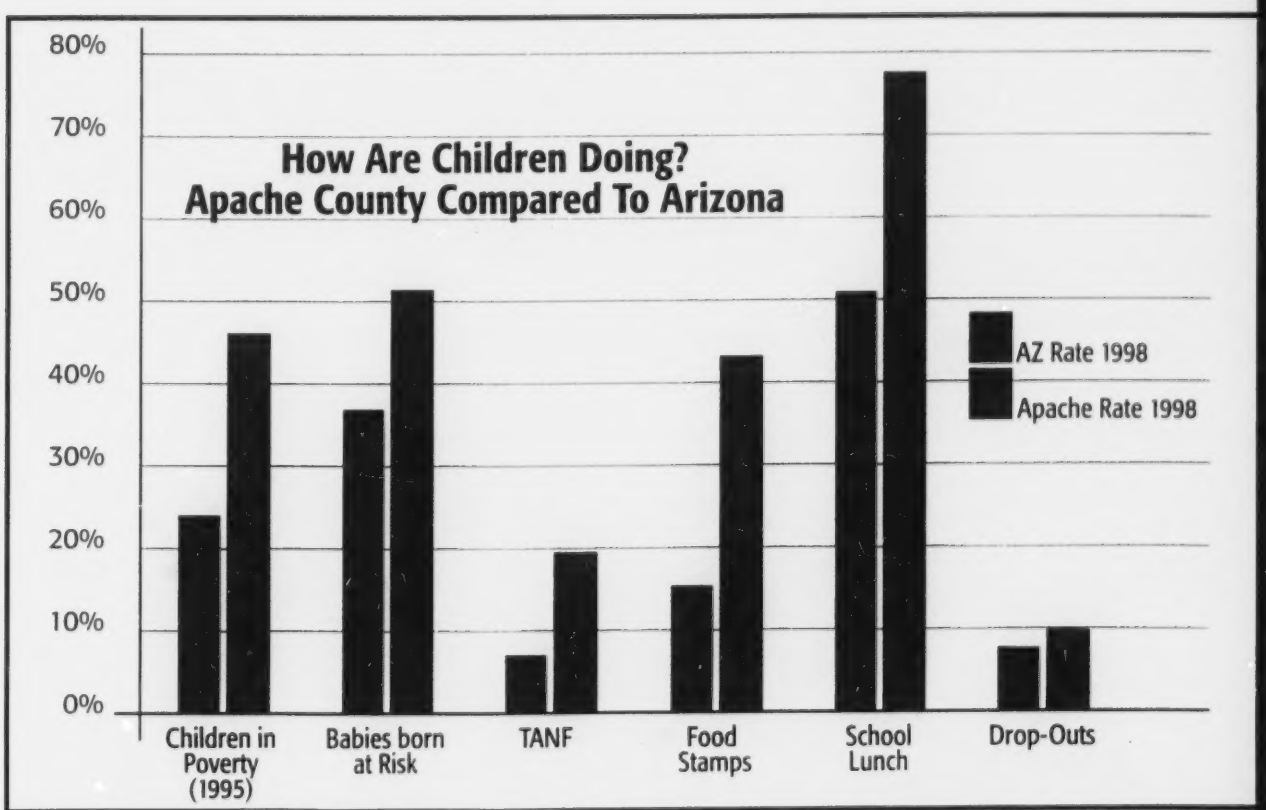


27,933	Children
13,688	Children in poverty (1995)
659	Babies born at risk
5,571	Children in families receiving TANF
11,754	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
15,127	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
1	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
741	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
58	Births to teens
181	Reports of child abuse and neglect to Child Protective Services (1999)
25	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Children in poverty
Drop-outs
Births to teens
Juvenile arrests

CHANGED for the WORSE
Babies born at risk



Risk Indicators for Apache County

	AZ Rate 1998	Apache Rate 1998	Apache Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	46.1%	51.3%	10% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	51.1%	29.0%	76% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	19.9%	18.4%	8% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	42.1%	39.1%	8% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	77.3%	66.8%	16% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	9.9%	12.0%	17% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	9.2 per 1,000	15.8 per 1,000	42% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	18.4 per# 1,000	21.2 per# 1,000	13% better
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	0.7%	0.8%	20% decrease
Children in foster care	5.6 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities. Because American Indian youth made up 80% of the Apache County child population in1990, these figures do not reflect true juvenile crime trends in the county.

@Compares 1990 and 1999. Figures do not include reports made to tribal authorities.

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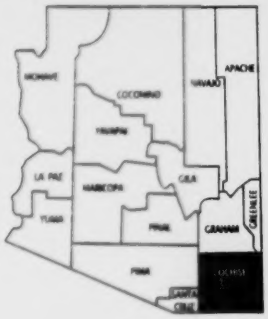
COCHISE COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

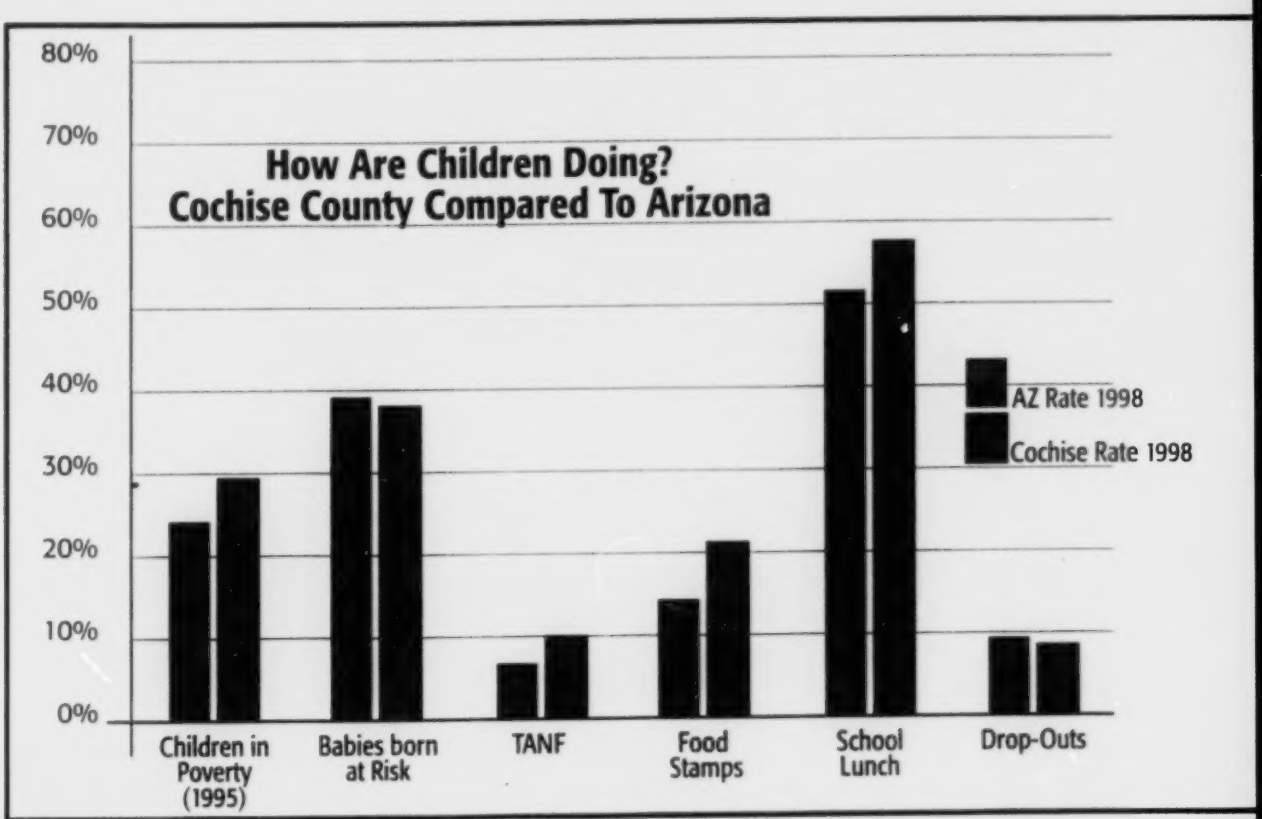


31,581	Children
9,541	Children in poverty (1995)
611	Babies born at risk
3,015	Children in families receiving TANF
6,463	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
10,012	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
4	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
779	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
81	Births to teens
2,384	Juvenile arrests
58	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
52	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
1,003	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
193	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Drop-outs
Births to teens
Reports of child abuse and neglect

CHANGED for the WORSE
Babies born at risk
Commitments to the Dept. of Juvenile Corrections
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Cochise County

	AZ Rate 1998	Cochise Rate 1998	Cochise Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	29.2%	28.2%	3% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	37.4%	32.7%	15% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	9.5%	9.5%	no measurable trend
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	20.5%	19.5%	5% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	51.0%	34.9%	46% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	7.5%	11.8%	36% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	11.8 per 1,000	17.7 per 1,000	33% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	134.9 per 1,000	127.7 per 1,000	6% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	3.3 per 1,000	3.0 per 1,000	9% worse
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)#	26.9 per 10,000	29.4 per 10,000	25.7 per 10,000	14% worse
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	3.1%	6.0	48% decrease
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	6.0 per 1,000	3.6 per 1,000	68% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Compares 1993 and 1998.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.

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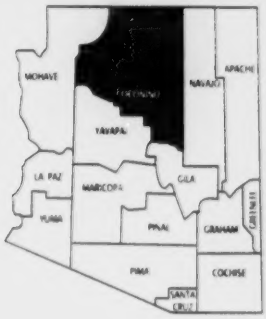
COCONINO COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

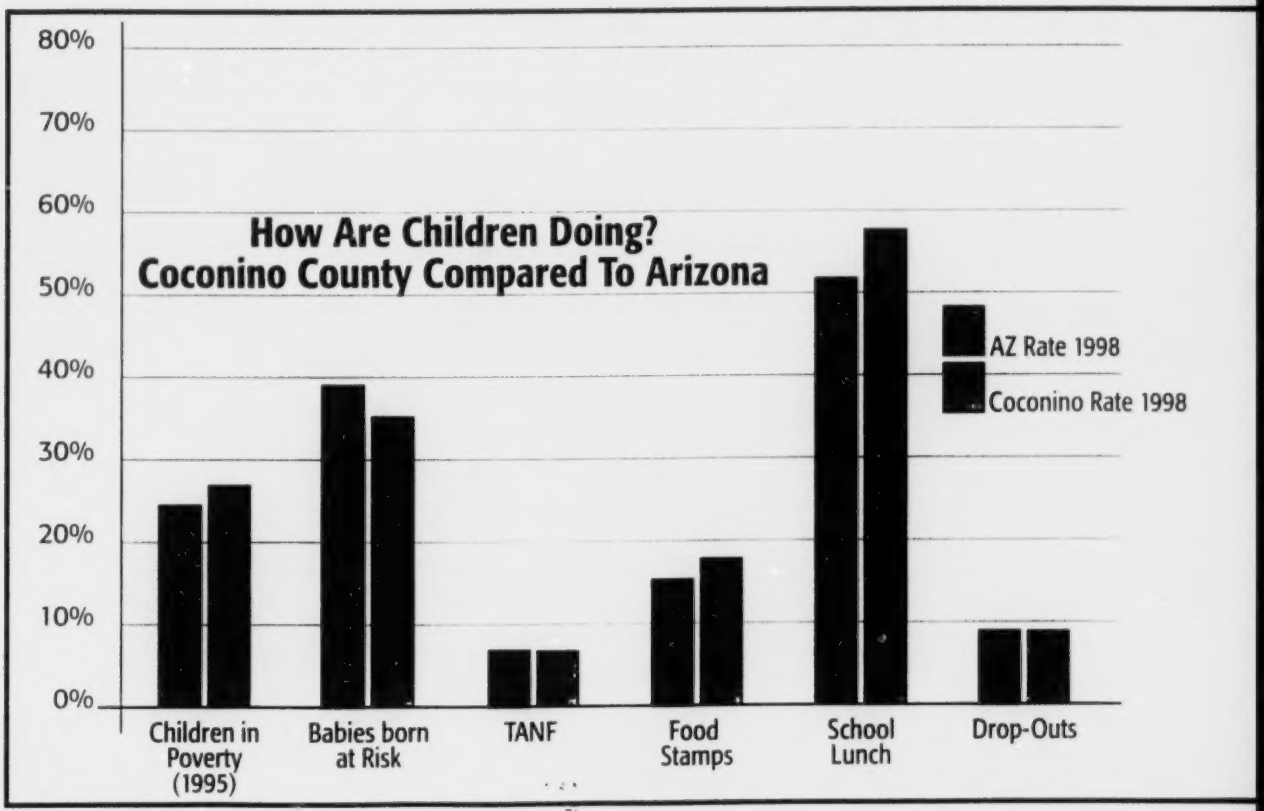


35,605	Children
9,590	Children in poverty (1995)
648	Babies born at risk
2,361	Children in families receiving TANF
6,092	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
12,773	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
2	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
977	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
53	Births to teens
1,782	Juvenile arrests
62	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
35	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
1,126	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
85	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Births to teens
Juvenile arrests

CHANGED for the WORSE
Babies born at risk
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
Commitments to the Dept. of Juvenile Corrections
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Coconino County

	AZ Rate 1998	Coconino Rate 1998	Coconino Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	26.1%	26.8%	3% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	36.9%	31.1%	19% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	6.6%	6.6%	no measurable trend
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	17.1%	16.9%	1% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	56.6%	34.3%	65% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	9.2%	9.9%	7% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	6.7 per 1,000	13.8 per 1,000	51% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	88.4 per# 1,000	121.3 per# 1,000	27% better
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	3.1 per# 1,000	2.7 per# 1,000	15% worse
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)@	26.9 per 10,000	17.4 per 10,000	10.1 per 10,000	73% worse
Reports of child abuse and neglect$	2.5%		3.1%	5% increase
Children in foster care¥	5.6 per 1,000		1.8 per 1,000	40% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 19[illegible] year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year a[illegible] year.

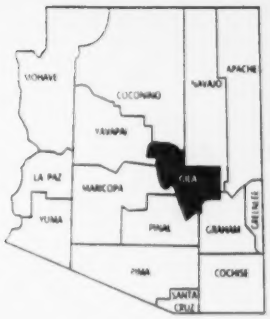
#Data do not include full figures from [illegible] enforcement offices; data do not include arrests of American Indian youth made by tribal authorities.

@Compares 1993 and 1998.

$Compares 1990 and 1999. Figures do not include reports made to tribal authorities.

¥Compares 1991 and 1999. Figures do not include foster care placements made by tribal authorities.

GILA COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

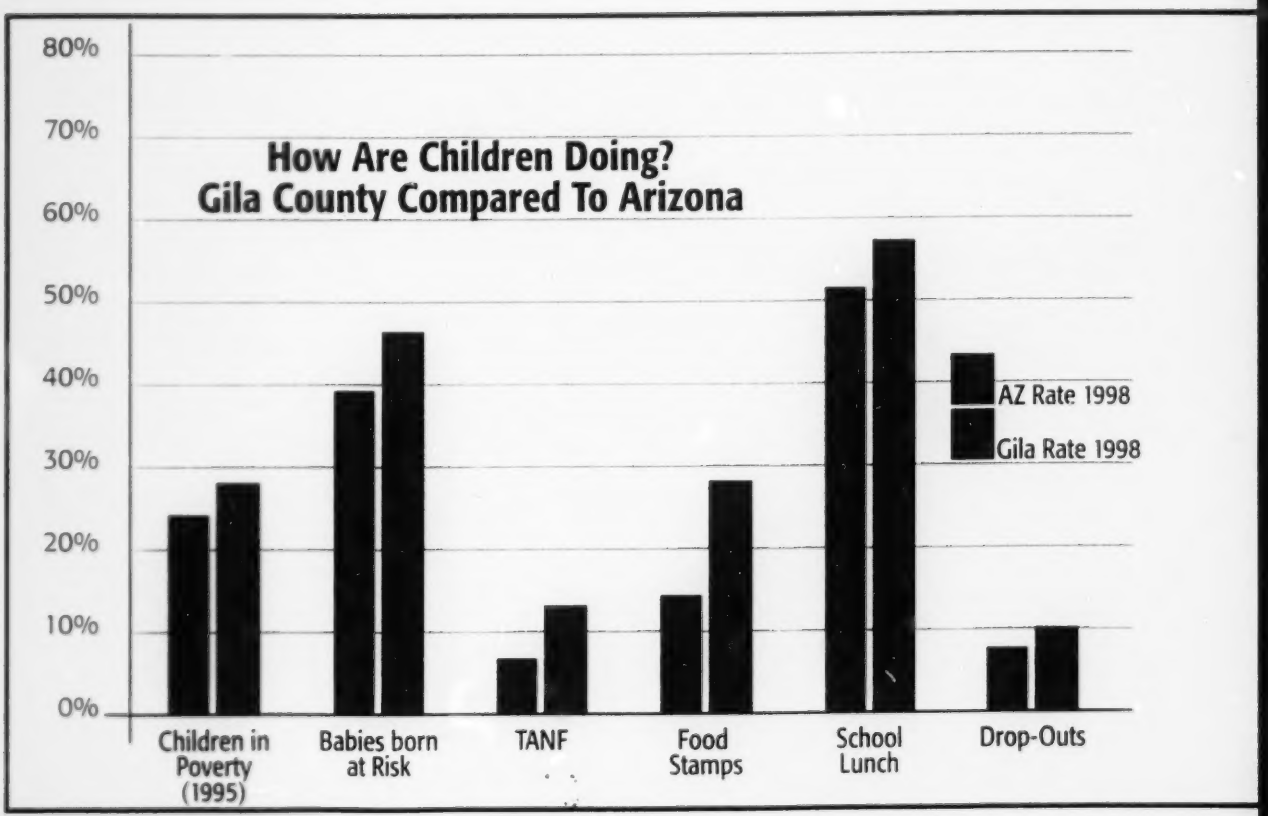


12,720	Children
3,653	Children in poverty (1995)
711	Babies born at risk
1,696	Children in families receiving TANF
3,508	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
5,510	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
0	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
433	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
55	Births to teens
1,010	Juvenile arrests
20	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
25	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
840	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
93	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Births to teens
Drop-outs

CHANGED for the WORSE
Children in poverty
Juvenile arrests
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Gila County

	AZ Rate 1998	Gila Rate 1998	Gila Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	28.4%	25.8%	10% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	46.7%	48.5%	4% better
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	13.3%	12.3%	9% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	27.6%	29.2%	5% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	56.6%	41.3%	37% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	9.8%	10.8%	10% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	18.8 per 1,000	25.5 per 1,000	27% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	137.6 per 1,000	120.3 per 1,000	14% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	6.6%	4.6%	43% increase
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	7.3 per 1,000	2.0 per 1,000	265% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.

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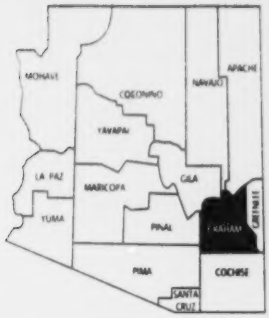
GRAHAM COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

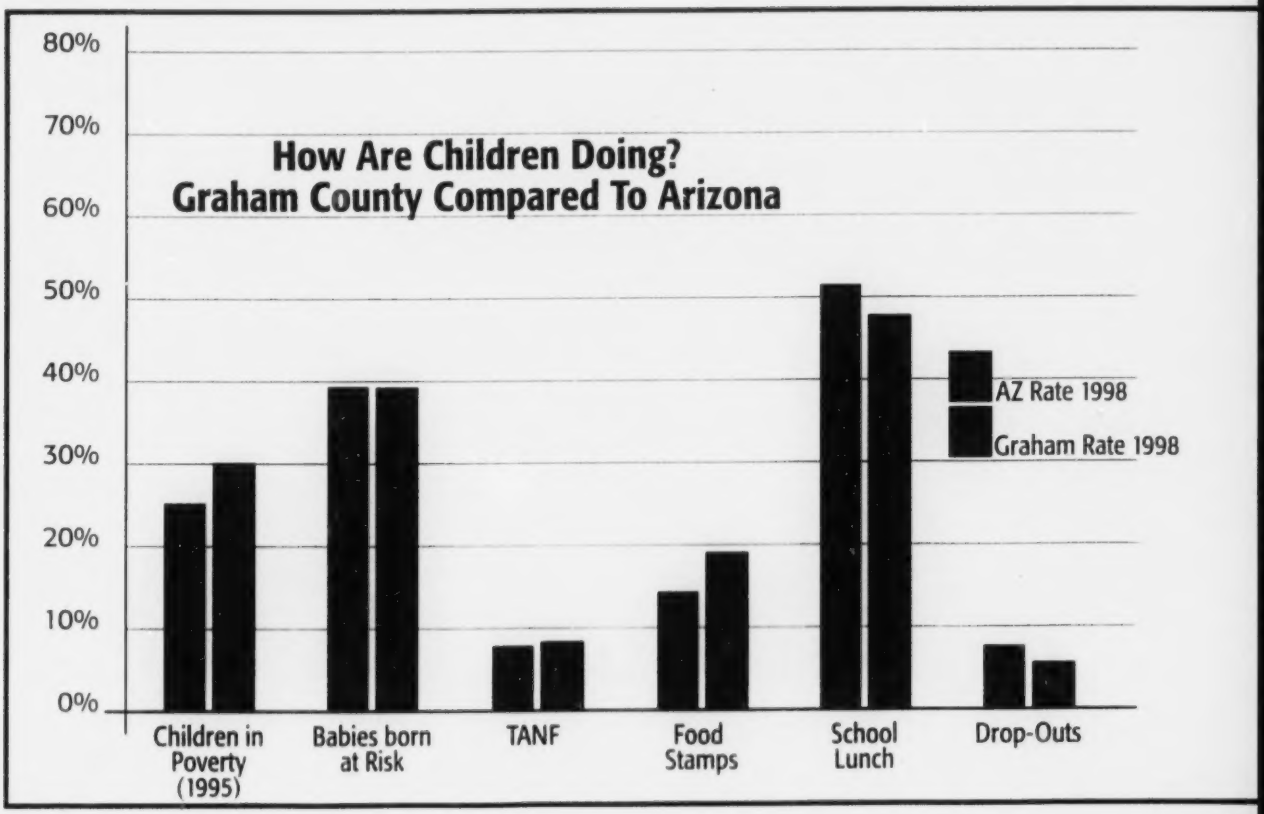


10,531	Children
3,156	Children in poverty (1995)
191	Babies born at risk
900	Children in families receiving TANF
1,990	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
2,906	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
2	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
177	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
28	Births to teens
711	Juvenile arrests
30	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
23	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
245	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
2	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Drop-outs

CHANGED for the WORSE
Juvenile arrests



Risk Indicators for Graham County

	AZ Rate 1998	Graham Rate 1998	Graham Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	29.6%	32.0%	7% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	39.1%	40.1%	2% better
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	8.5%	11.6%	26% decrease
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	18.9%	25.4%	26% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	48.2%	43.8%	10% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	5.8%	6.9%	16% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	118.3 per 1,000	57.8 per# 1,000	105% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	2.3%	2.9%	20% decrease
Children in foster care	5.6 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

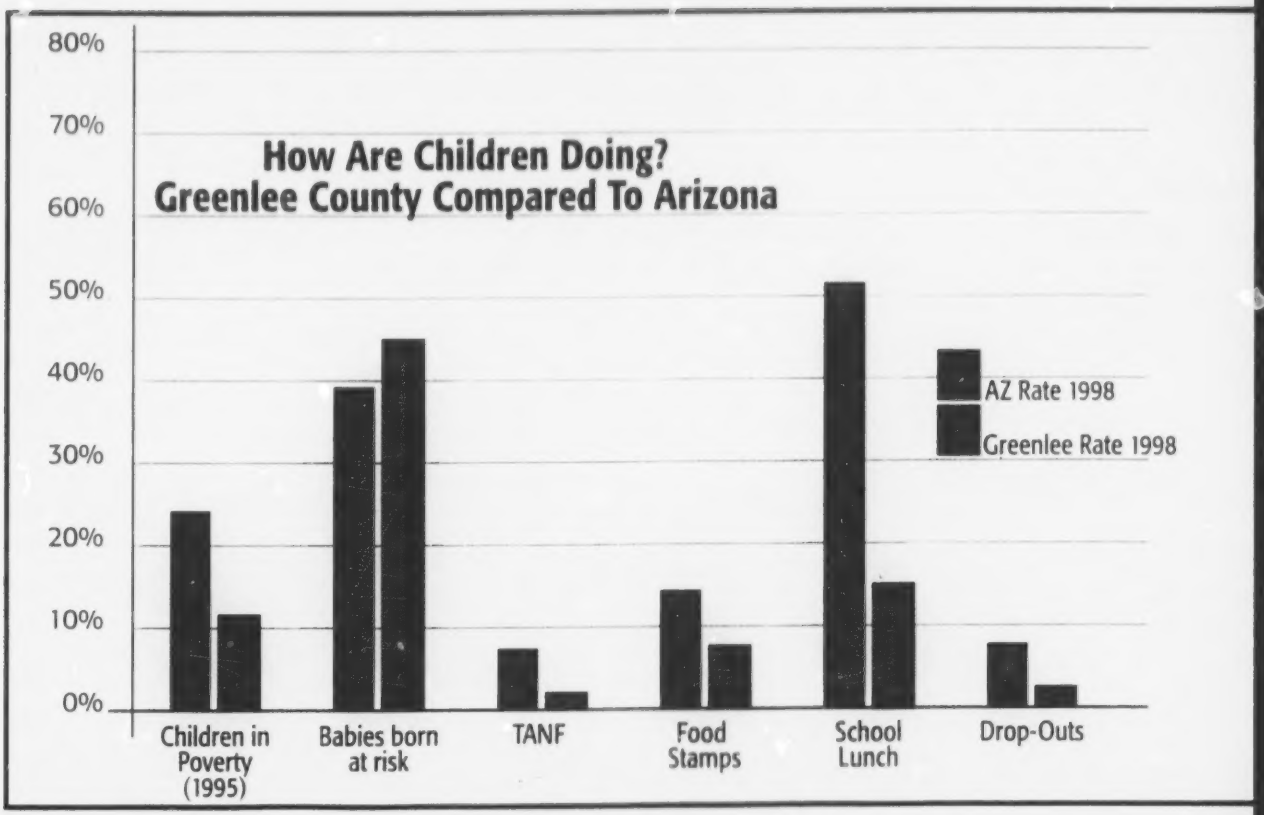
^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

GREENLEE COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

3,266	Children
413	Children in poverty (1995)
64	Babies born at risk
109	Children in families receiving TANF
227	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
423	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
0	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
26	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
13	Births to teens
116	Juvenile arrests
1	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
0	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
56	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
29	Children in foster care (1999)



Risk Indicators for Greenlee County

	AZ Rate 1998	Greenlee Rate 1998	Greenlee Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	12.4%	12.8%	3% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	45.4%	44.8%	no measurable trend
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	3.3%	7.6%	56% decrease
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	7.0%	14.8%	53% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	15.5%	39.6%	61% decrease
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	2.3%	3.9%	no measurable trend
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	59.2 per 1,000	19.9 per# 1,000	no measurable trend
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	1.8%	3.8%	52% decrease
Children in foster care	5.6 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

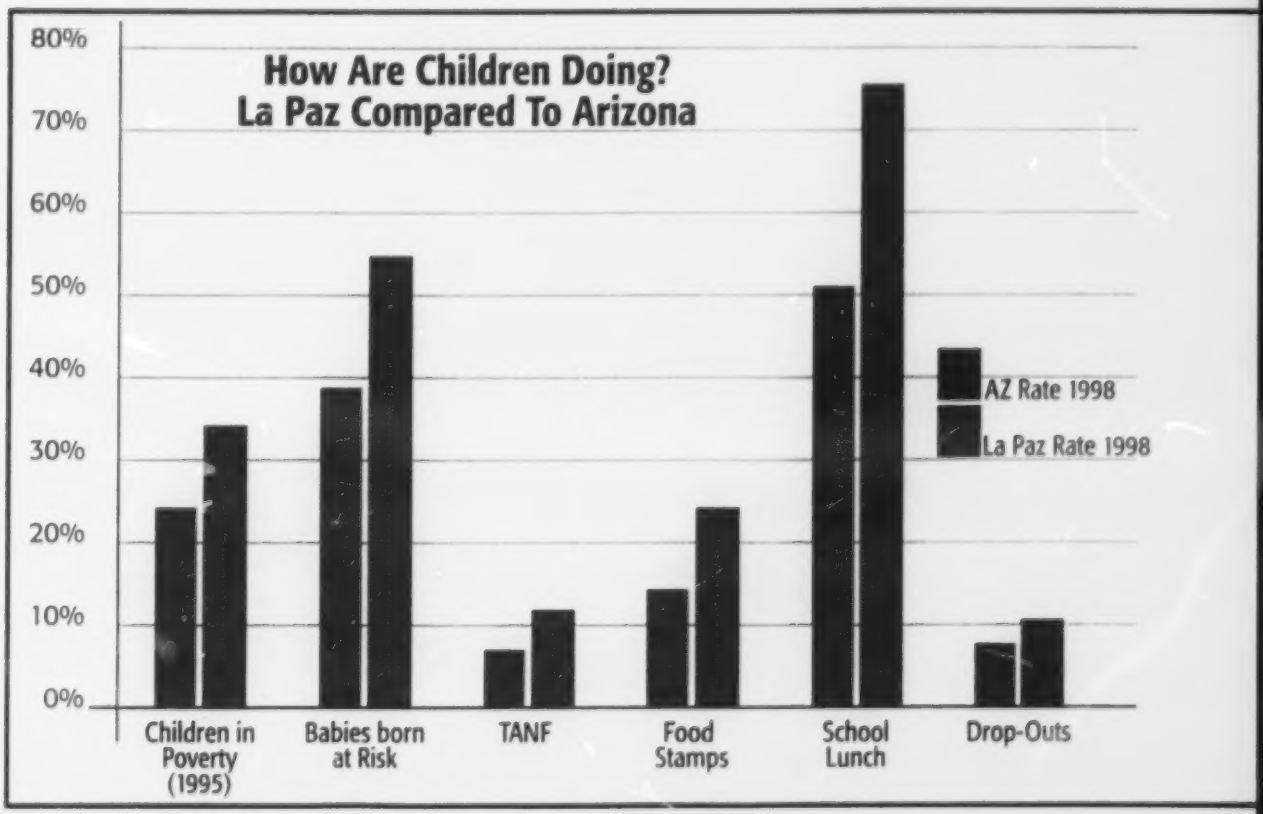
LA PAZ COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

3,579	Children
1,380	Children in poverty (1995)
93	Babies born at risk
440	Children in families receiving TANF
888	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
3,566	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
0	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
161	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
11	Births to teens
180	Juvenile arrests (1990)
2	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
4	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
111	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
6	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Drop-outs

CHANGED for the WORSE
Babies born at risk
Juvenile arrests



Risk Indicators for La Paz County

	AZ Rate 1998	La Paz Rate 1998	La Paz Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	33.8%	37.1%	9% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	55.0%	42.6%	29% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	12.3%	8.8%	39% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	24.8%	17.5%	42% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	74.3%	61.7%	21% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	10.7%	11.8%	10% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	93.6 per 1,000	40.6 per# 1,000	131% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	2.5%	5.3%	53% decrease
Children in foster care	5.6 per 1,00[illegible]	[illegible]rs too small to measure meaningful rates		

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

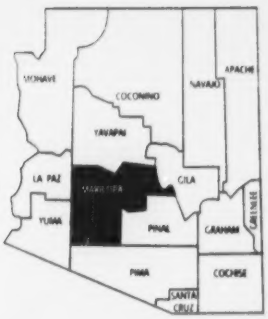
†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 199[illegible]

#Data do not include full figures from all law [illegible]ent offices.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

MARICOPA COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

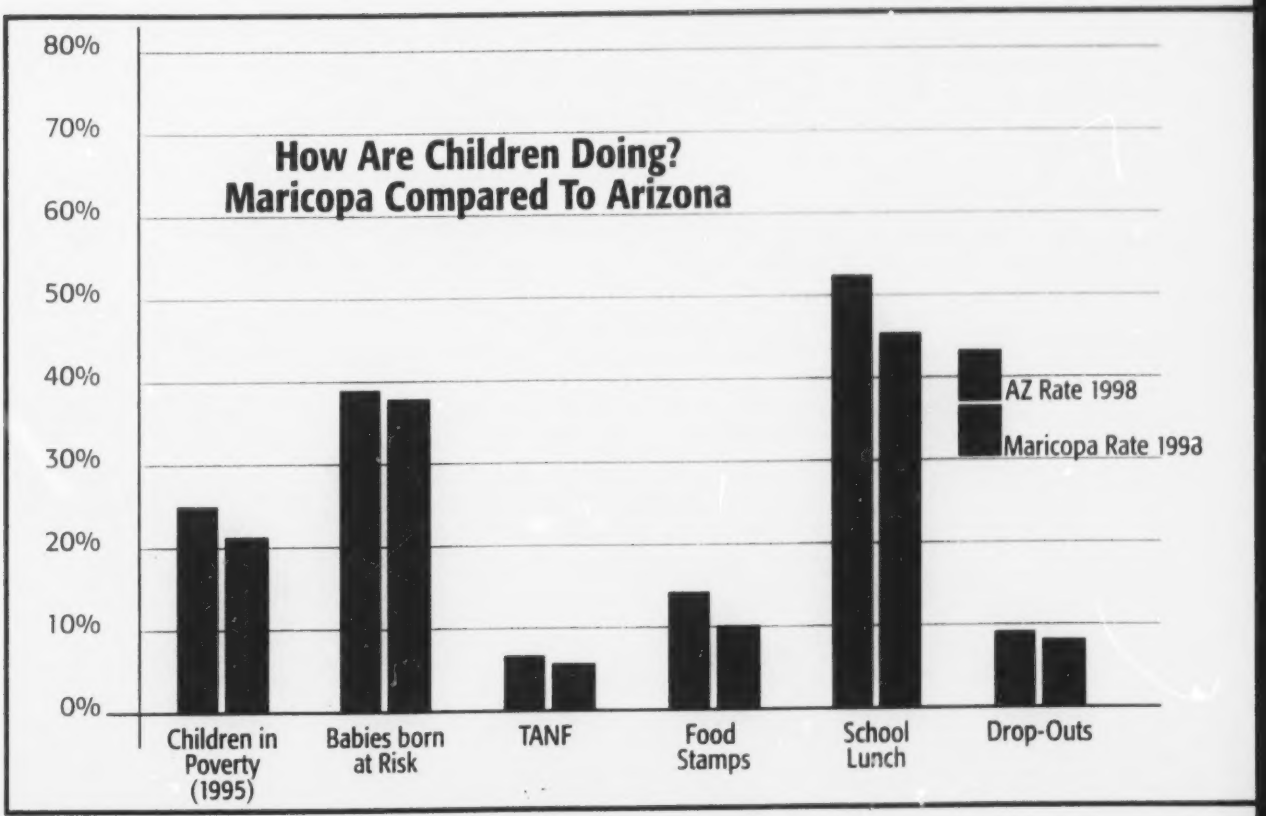


737,550	Children
156,791	Children in poverty (1995)
18,637	Babies born at risk
38,736	Children in families receiving TANF
76,225	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
192,076	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
71	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
16,947	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
1,987	Births to teens
31,900	Juvenile arrests
1,125	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
966	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
18,147	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
4,071	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Births to teens
Juvenile arrests
Juvenile Arrests for violent crimes

CHANGED for the WORSE
Children in poverty
Babies born at risk
Gun deaths
Commitments to the Dept. of Juvenile Corrections
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Maricopa County

	AZ Rate 1998	Maricopa Rate 1998	Maricopa Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	21.5%	17.3%	24% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	37.8%	31.5%	20% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	5.3%	7.6%	31% decrease
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	10.3%	13.2%	22% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	45.2%	30.7%	47% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	7.9%	7.7%	4% worse
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	13.1 per 1,000	18.4 per 1,000	29% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	81.3 per 1,000	98.9 per 1,000	18% better
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	2.9 per 1,000	4.3 per 1,000	33% better
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)#	26.9 per 10,000	25.0 per 10,000	22.4 per 10,000	12% worse
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	2.4%	3.4%	29% decrease
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	5.4 per 1,000	3.7 per 1,000	45% worse
Gun related deaths (children 0-19)	7.8 per 100,00	8.6 per 100,000	6.3 per 100,000	37% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Compares 1993 and 1998.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.

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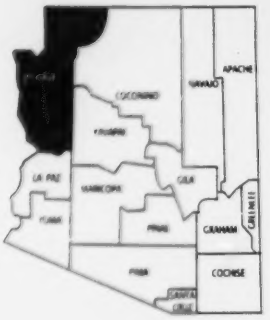
MOHAVE COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998



28,914	Children
7,715	Children in poverty (1995)
631	Babies born at risk
2,737	Children in families receiving TANF
7,160	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
9,376	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
1	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
1,199	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
72	Births to teens
2,523	Juvenile arrests
57	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
58	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
1,046	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
154	Children in foster care (1999)

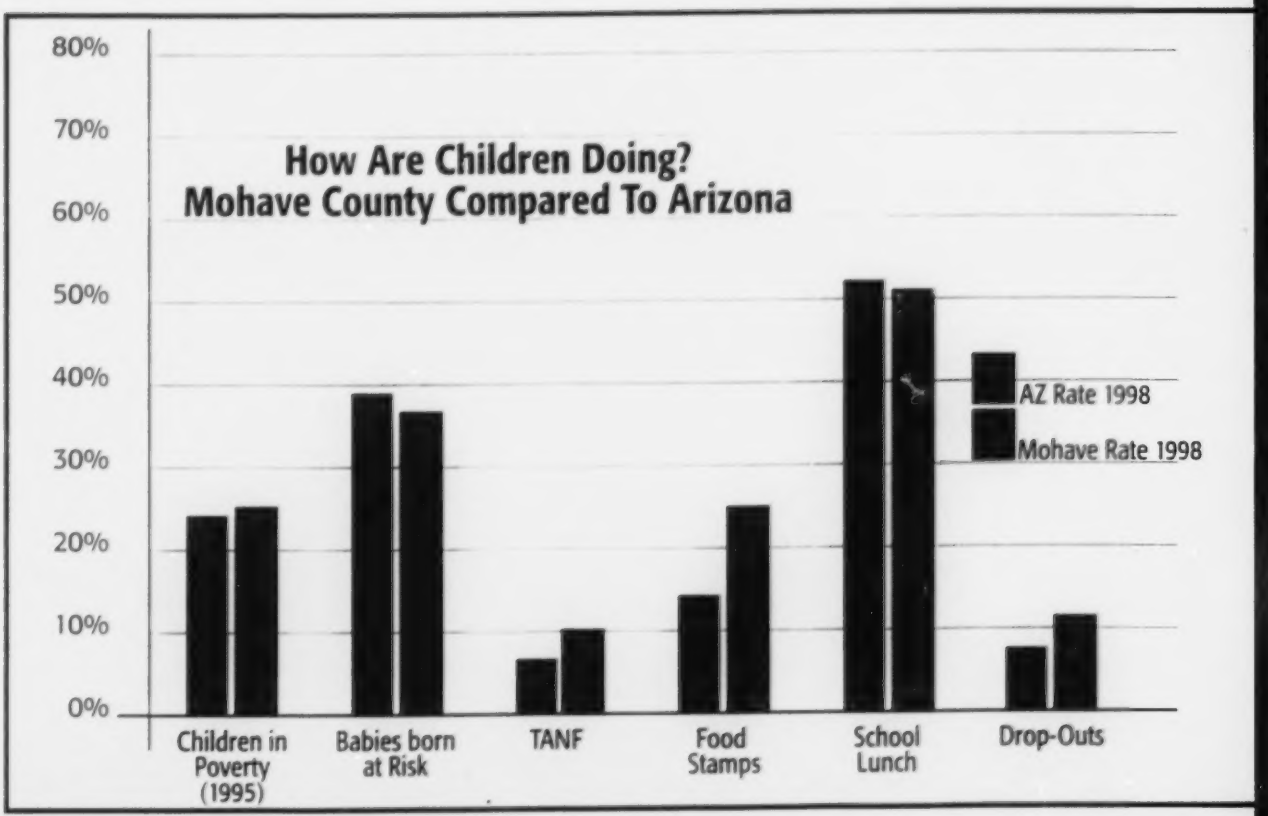
TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER

Drop-outs
Births to teens
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes

CHANGED for the WORSE

Children in poverty
Babies born at risk
Juvenile arrests
Commitments to the Dept. of Juvenile Corrections
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Mohave County

	AZ Rate 1998	Mohave Rate 1998	Mohave Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	25.9%	22.1%	17% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	37.6%	33.5%	12% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	9.5%	5.6%	68% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	24.8%	13.7%	81% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	50.9%	26.2%	94% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	11.0%	13.7%	20% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	11.9 per 1,000	19.1 per 1,000	38% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	159.7 per 1,000	145.1 per 1,000	10% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	3.6 per 1,000	4.9 per 1,000	27% better
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)*	26.9 per 10,000	36.8 per 10,000	20.8 per 10,000	76% worse
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	3.3%	5.8%	44% decrease
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	4.8 per 1,000	2.4 per 1,000	100% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

*Compares 1993 and 1998.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.

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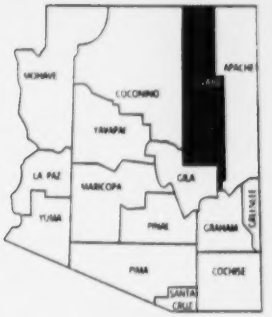
NAVAJO COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

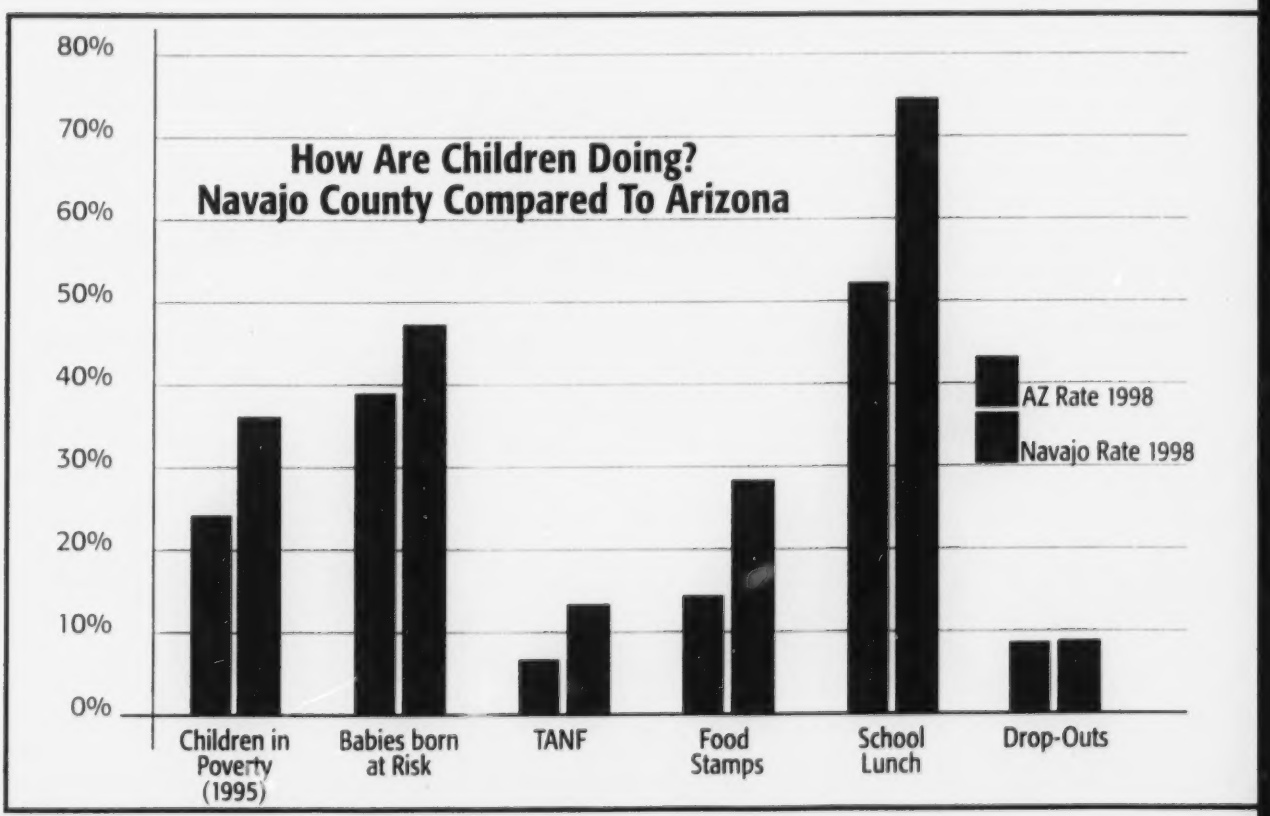


36,011	Children
13,395	Children in poverty (1995)
831	Babies born at risk
4,540	Children in families receiving TANF
10,334	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
26,782	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
1	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
967	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
102	Births to teens
1,456	Juvenile arrests
37	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
15	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
299	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
66	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Births to teens

CHANGED for the WORSE
Babies born at risk
Drop-outs
Juvenile arrests
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Navajo County

	AZ Rate 1998	Navajo Rate 1998	Navajo Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	36.5%	39.3%	7% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	47.0%	33.9%	39% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	12.6%	10.0%	26% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	28.7%	25.4%	13% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	75.3%	56.7%	33% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	9.2%	7.2%	28% worse
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	12.5 per 1,000	19.0 per 1,000	34% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	70.2 per# 1,000	53.9 per# 1,000	30% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	1.8 per# 1,000	1.4 per# 1,000	no measurable trend
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	1.0%	1.8%	46% decrease
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	2.1 per 1,000	1.7 per 1,000	22% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities. Because American Indian youth made up 59% of the Navajo County child population in 1990, data do not reflect true juvenile crime trends in the county.

@Compares 1990 and 1999. Figures do not include reports made to tribal authorities.

$Compares 1991 and 1999. Data do not reflect out-of-home placements made by tribal support systems.

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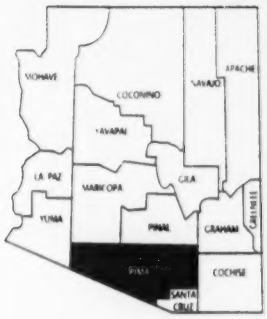
PIMA COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

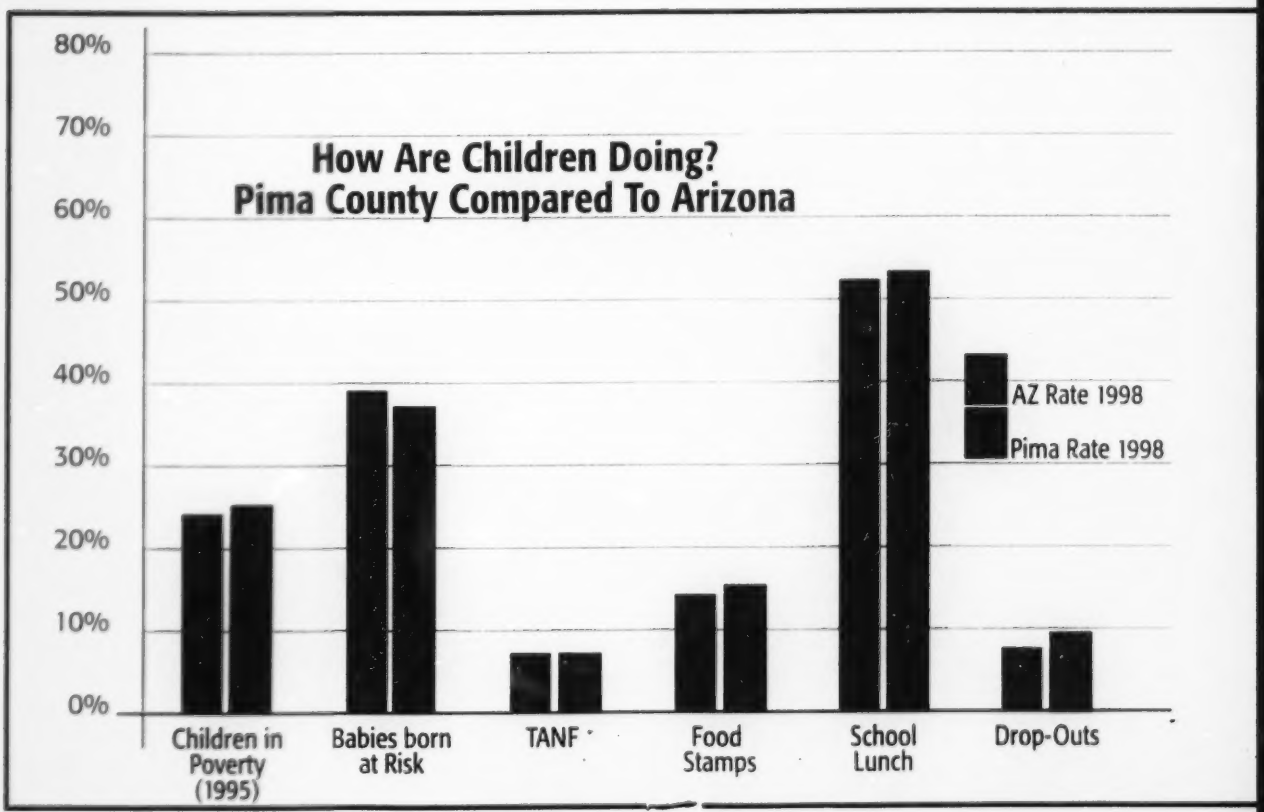


199,328	Children
52,347	Children in poverty (1995)
4,188	Babies born at risk
13,664	Children in families receiving TANF
29,941	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
66,348	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
17	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
5,559	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
535	Births to teens
17,115	Juvenile arrests
393	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
408	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
6,596	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
1,799	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Births to teens

CHANGED for the WORSE
Children in poverty
Babies born at risk
Juvenile arrests
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Pima County

	AZ Rate 1998	Pima Rate 1998	Pima Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	25.8%	23.5%	10% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	36.6%	32.4%	13% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	6.9%	8.6%	21% decrease
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	15.0%	17.0%	12% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	53.5%	38.4%	39% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	9.5%	9.8%	3% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	13.0 per 1,000	16.2 per 1,000	20% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	161.6 per 1,000	124.2 per 1,000	30% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	3.7 per 1,000	3.0 per 1,000	24% worse
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)#	26.9 per 10,000	38.7 per 10,000	36.2 per 10,000	7% worse
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	3.2%	5.6%	42% decrease
Children in foster care $	5.6 per 1,000	8.8 per 1,000	7.3 per 1,000	21% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

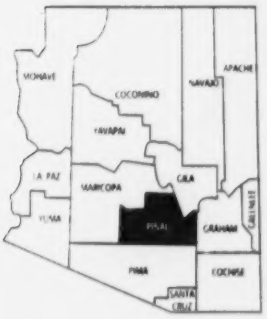
^ Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Compares 1993 and 1998.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.

PINAL COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998



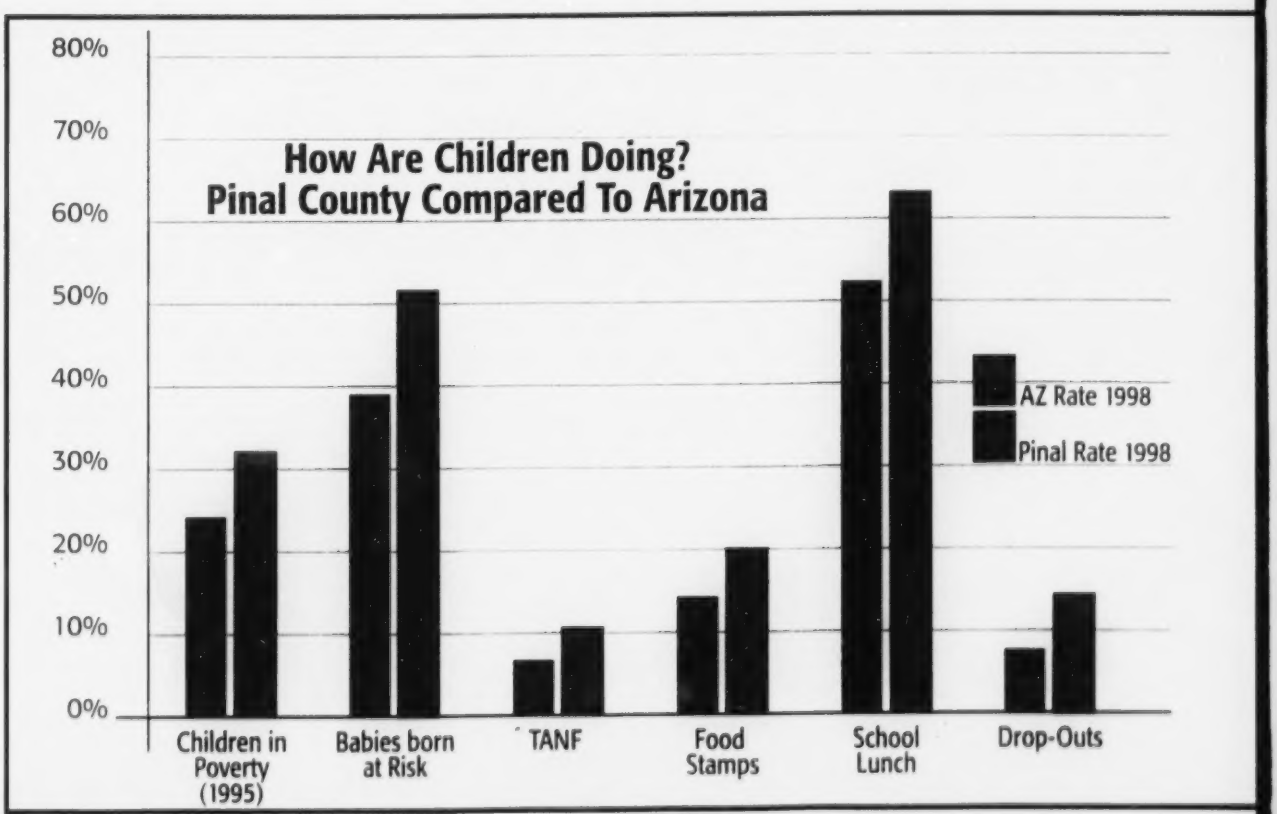
42,334	Children
13,660	Children in poverty (1995)
1,158	Babies born at risk
4,566	Children in families receiving TANF
8,402	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
24,521	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
3	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
1,760	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
158	Births to teens
2,233	Juvenile arrests*
89	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes*
88	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
840	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
183	Children in foster care (1999)

*Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Births to teens

CHANGED for the WORSE
Drop-outs
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
Commitments to the Dept. of Juvenile Corrections
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Pinal County

	AZ Rate 1998	Pinal Rate 1998	Pinal Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	31.6%	32.6%	3% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	51.9%	50.6%	3% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	10.8%	16.7%	36% decrease
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	19.9%	26.2%	24% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	63.9%	47.4%	35% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	14.5%	11.2%	29% worse
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	17.9 per 1,000	28.8 per 1,000	38% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	96.1 per# 1,000	99.2 per# 1,000	3% better
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	3.8 per# 1,000	3.5 per# 1,000	10% worse
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)@	26.9 per 10,000	38.3 per 10,000	14.7 per 10,000	161% worse
Reports of child abuse and neglect$	2.5%	2.0%	4.0%	50% decrease
Children in foster care¥	5.6 per 1,000	4.3 per 1,000	2.4 per 1,000	76% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

@Compares 1993 and 1998.

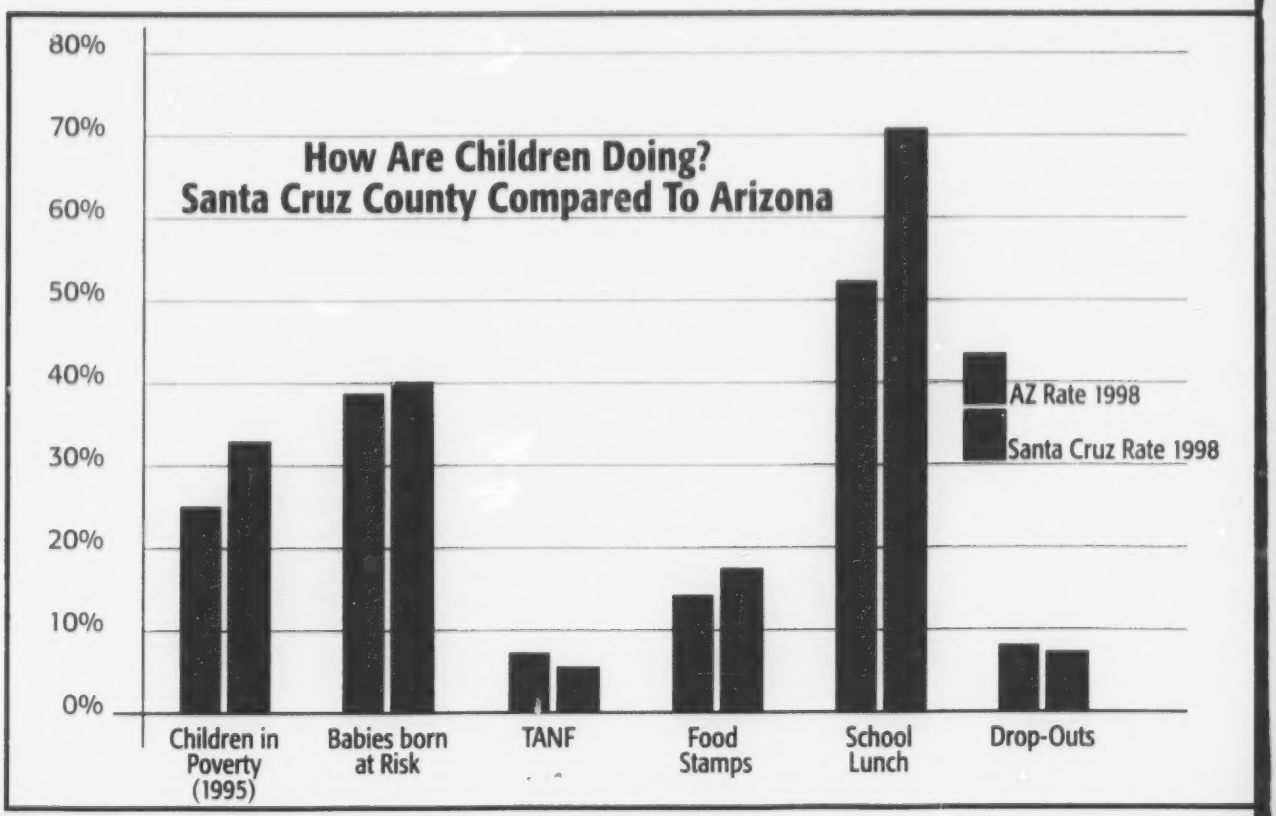
$Compares 1990 and 1999.

¥Compares 1991 and 1999.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

13,039	Children
4,327	Children in poverty (1995)
311	Babies born at risk
749	Children in families receiving TANF
2,249	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
6,865	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
0	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
292	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
43	Births to teens
241	Juvenile arrests
9	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
13	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
182	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
17	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS
CHANGED for the BETTER
Babies born at risk
Drop-outs
Juvenile arrests



Risk Indicators for Santa Cruz County

	AZ Rate 1998	Santa Cruz Rate 1998	Santa Cruz Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	32.8%	34.5%	5% better
Babies born at risk	38.8%	40.2%	44.9%	10% better
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	5.7%	5.4%	6% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	17.3%	18.9%	9% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	70.6%	58.8%	20% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	7.1%	9.0%	22% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	15.1 per 1,000	13.8 per 1,000	no measurable trend
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	33.5 per 1,000	38.9 per 1,000	14% better
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect#	2.5%	1.4%	2.0%	29% decrease
Children in foster care	5.6 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		

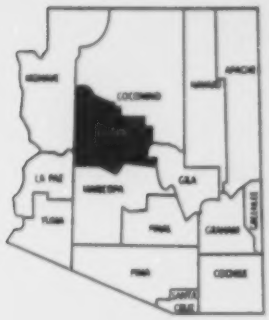
*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Compares 1990 and 1999.

YAVAPAI COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

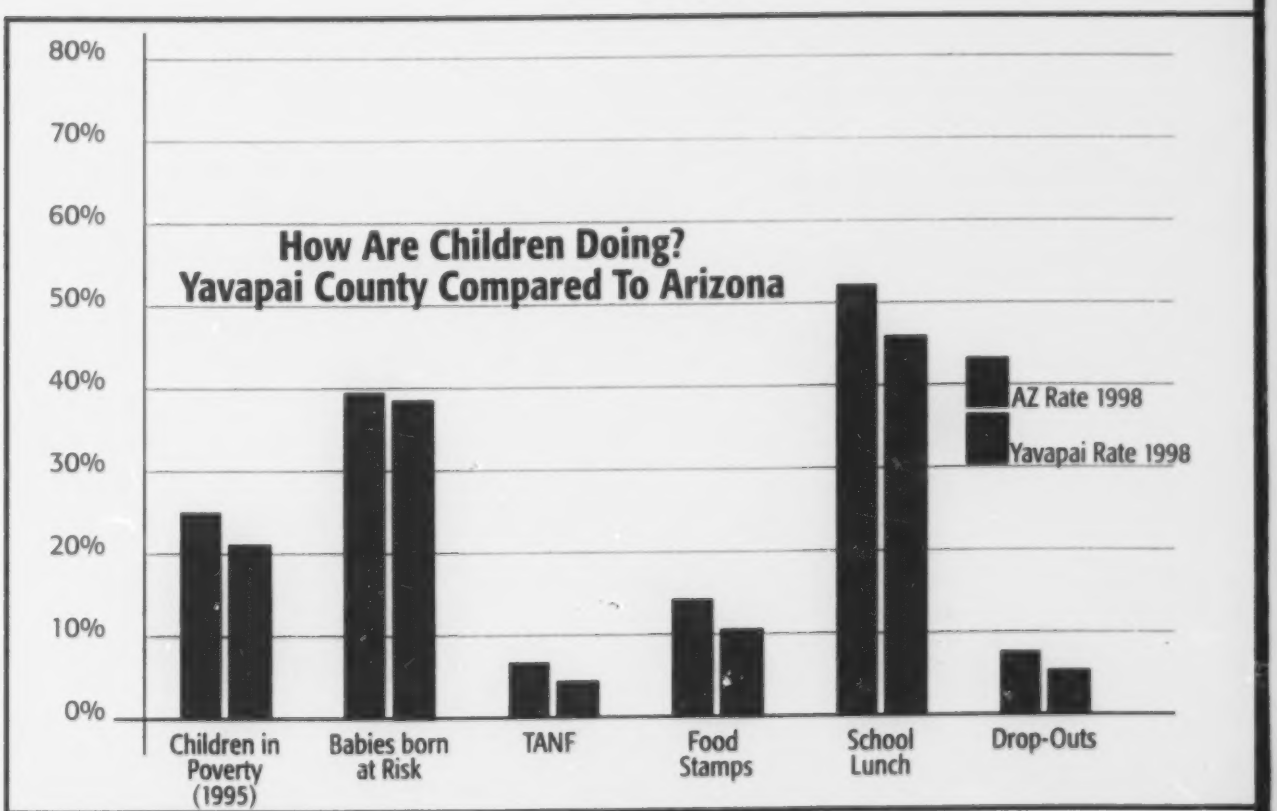


31,697	Children
6,558	Children in poverty (1995)
641	Babies born at risk
1,390	Children in families receiving TANF
3,450	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
7,912	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
2	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
536	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
83	Births to teens
2,066	Juvenile arrests
53	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
32	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
1,160	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
178	Children in foster care (1999)

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Drop-outs
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes

CHANGED for the WORSE
Children in poverty
Babies born at risk
Births to teens
Juvenile arrests
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Yavapai County

	AZ Rate 1998	Yavapai Rate 1998	Yavapai Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	20.8%	18.9%	10% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	37.9%	32.1%	18% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	4.4%	6.0%	27% decrease
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	10.9%	12.4%	12% decrease
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	45.8%	31.9%	44% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	5.2%	9.7%	47% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	11.8 per 1,000	8.7 per 1,000	37% worse
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	112.7 per 1,000	89.1 per# 1,000	27% worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	2.9 per 1,000	3.8 per# 1,000	24% better
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	3.7%	3.9%	4% decrease
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	5.7 per 1,000	3.4 per 1,000	65% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.

YUMA COUNTY - THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1998

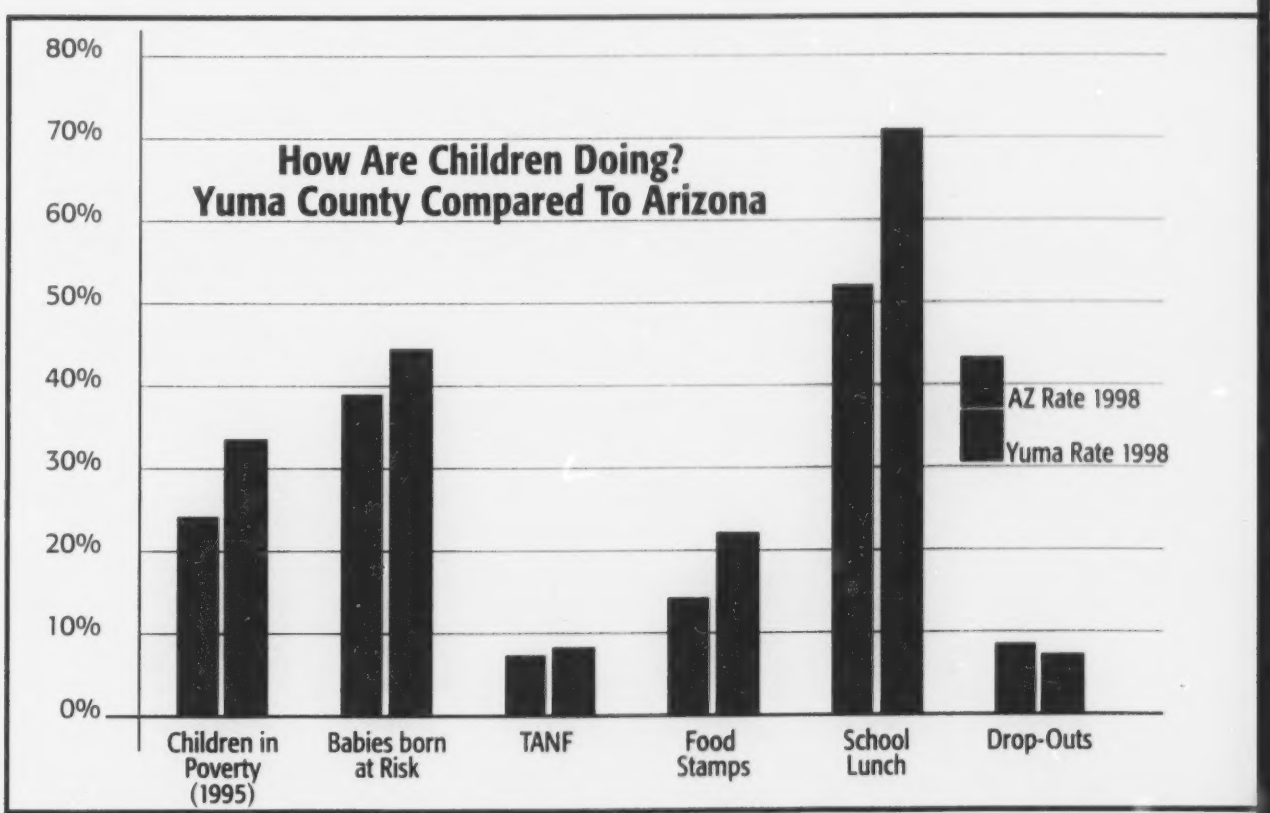
39,294	Children
13,370	Children in poverty (1995)
1,261	Babies born at risk
3,045	Children in families receiving TANF
8,841	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
23,605	Students approved for Free/Reduced Price Lunch (1998/99 school year)
1	Children killed by guns (children 0-19)
968	School drop-outs (1997/98 school year)
126	Births to teens
407	Juvenile arrests*
3	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes*
74	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
74	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
807	Reports of child abuse and neglect (1999)
186	Children in foster care (1999)

*Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

TRENDS

CHANGED for the BETTER
Drop-outs
Juvenile arrests

CHANGED for the WORSE
Children in poverty
Babies born at risk
Children in foster care



Risk Indicators for Yuma County

	AZ Rate 1998	Yuma Rate 1998	Yuma Rate 1990	Rate Change 1990 to 1998
Children in poverty*	24.7%	33.5%	28.4%	18% worse
Babies born at risk	38.8%	44.8%	34.6%	29% worse
Children in families receiving TANF	6.7%	7.7%	7.3%	6% increase
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	14.2%	22.5%	19.5%	16% increase
Students approved for free/reduced priced lunch†	51.8%	70.7%	57.4%	23% increase
School drop-outs (grades 7-12)^	8.5%	6.9%	10.9%	37% better
Births to teens (girls 10-17)	13.0 per 1,000	15.5 per 1,000	16.9 per 1,000	8% better
Juvenile arrests (youth 8-17)	95.3 per 1,000	19.1 per# 1,000	95.6 per# 1,000	80% better
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (youth 8-17)	2.9 per 1,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (youth 8-17)	26.9 per 10,000	numbers too small to measure meaningful rates		
Reports of child abuse and neglect@	2.5%	2.0%	3.4%	42% decrease
Children in foster care$	5.6 per 1,000	4.5 per 1,000	3.2 per 1,000	41% worse

*Compares 1989 and 1995.

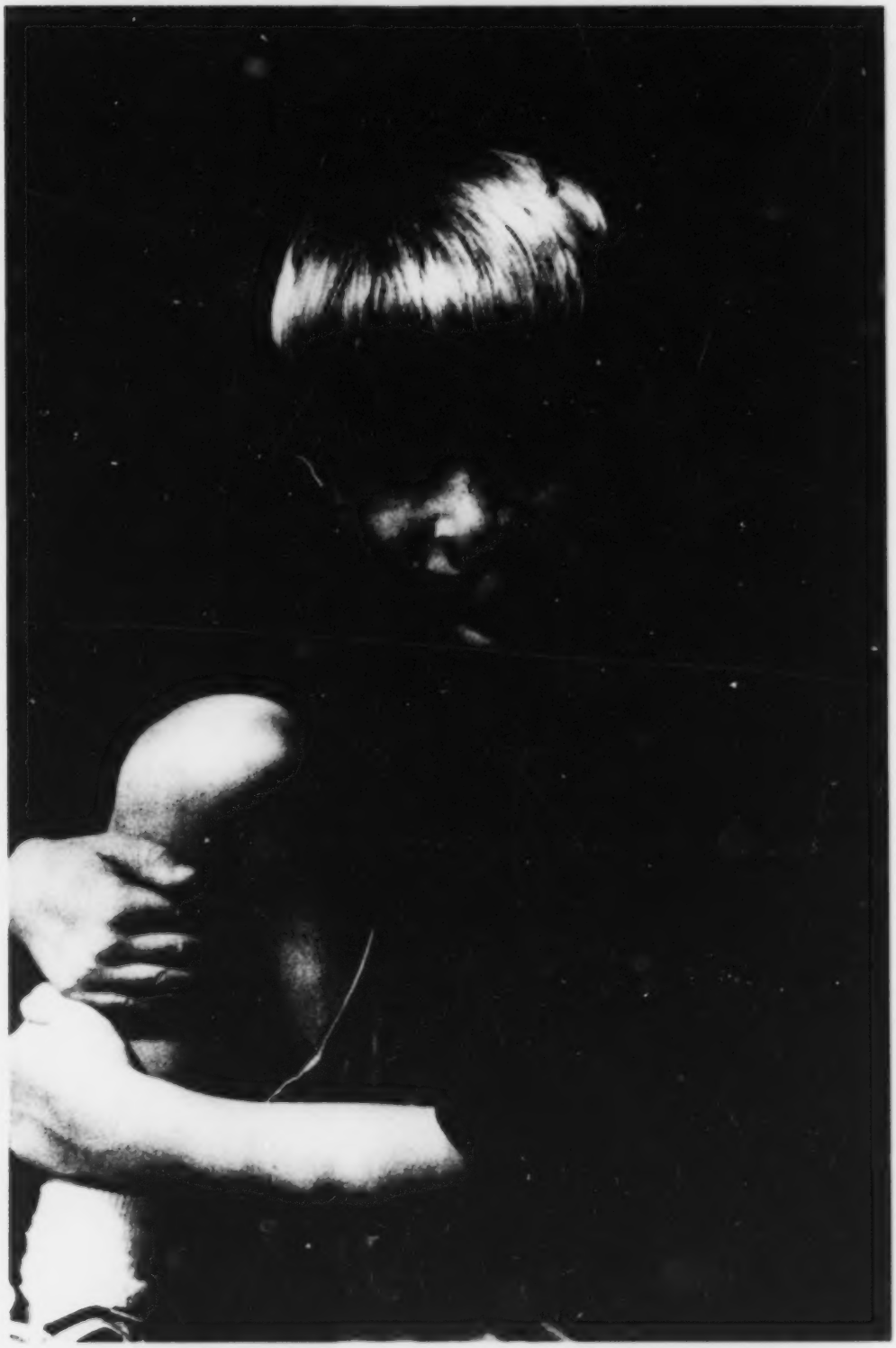
†Compares 1989/90 school year and 1998/99 school year.

^Compares 1994/95 school year and 1997/98 school year.

#Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

@Compares 1990 and 1999.

$Compares 1991 and 1999.



CHAPTER 3: KIDS AND VIOLENCE - WHERE ARE THE GROWN-UPS?

When we hear the words "kids and violence" we tend to conjure up images of the massacre at Columbine High School, the 6-year old boy in Michigan shooting and killing his first grade classmate, or teenage gangs on sprees of rapes and drive-by-shootings. While these scenarios are horrifyingly real, they also remain rare.

The violent acts of kids that are covered in the news make us shake our heads and ask "What's the matter with kids these days?" But the first place we should look to confront the issue of kids and violence is in the mirror. A child is far more likely to become a victim of violence at the hand of adults than to commit an act of violence himself. Keeping kids away from violence and violence away from kids is truly an adult responsibility.

More than one-quarter of parents are concerned that their own children will commit "significantly" violent acts, according to *Parents* magazine and the *I Am Your Child Foundation*. More than one-fifth of parents personally know a child who has been a victim of violence. And, more than 90% of parents regardless of age, race or socioeconomic status, are worried about violence.[1]

The overwhelming evidence confirms that putting metal detectors and police officers in schools and putting desperate youth in boot camps, adult courts or prisons do not work to prevent violence.

But we can protect children from violence with concrete steps that work. We can give parents the tools they need to be strong parents and good role models. We can involve as many caring adults as possible in each child's life. We can provide quality after-school activities so kids have a safe place to go and something constructive to do in the afternoon. We can limit children's exposure to violent media images. We can take common-sense precautions against guns.

The first step is understanding the facts about kids and violence.

SCHOOLS – A SAFE PLACE FOR KIDS: Despite the rash of bomb threats in Arizona schools and the images of Columbine and West Paducah seared in our minds, schools are actually one of the safest places children can be.

A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that during the 1992-1993 and 1993-1994 school years combined, 63 students were murdered in schools nationwide. In comparison, during the 1992 and 1993 calendar years combined, more than 100 times that number of children (7,294) aged 5-19 were murdered away from schools[2] (see Figure 15).

In 1996, teens aged 12-18 were more than twice as likely to become victims of nonfatal serious violent crimes (such as sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) away from school as at school (671,000 incidents compared to 255,000 incidents).[3]

And schools didn't become more dangerous in the first half of the 1990s. The National Crime Victimization Survey includes a School Crime Supplement. In 1989, 15% of students reported some type of victimization and 3% reported

Less Than 1% of All Child Murders Occur in Schools (1992-93)

Figure 15

violent victimization. The reporting remained virtually unchanged in 1995: 15% reported some type of victimization and 4% reported violent victimization.[4] A survey of Arizona schools for 1998/1999 school year reports even lower victimization rates; fewer than five children out of every 10,000 students were seriously injured as a result of a violent act on school grounds.[5]

Indeed, after school lets out is one of the most dangerous times to be a kid. For children, the odds of being a victim of a violent crime, robbery, aggravated assault or sexual assault peak between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (see Figure 16). (Sexual assault also rises early in the morning and around lunch time). In contrast, for adults, the odds of being a victim of violent crime such as robbery or aggravated assault rise steadily throughout the day, peaking between 9:00 p.m. and midnight.[6]

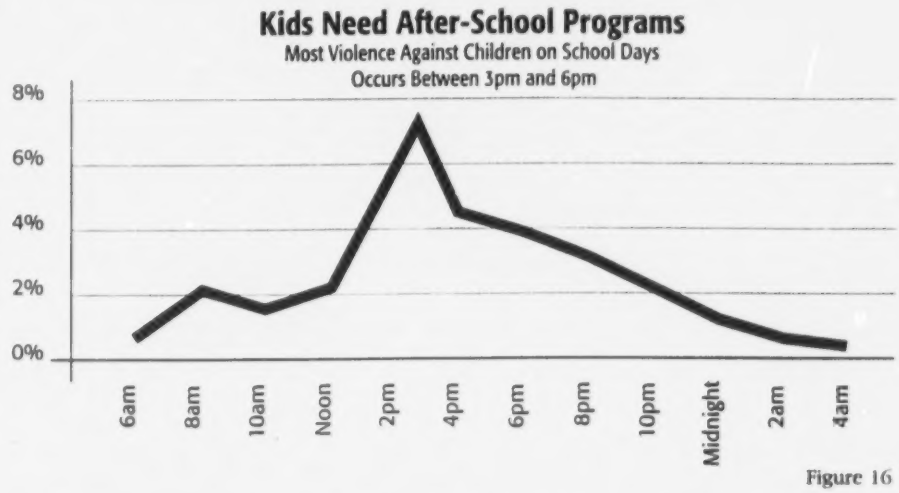


Figure 16

Children are relatively safe when they are in school, surrounded by other children in a supervised setting. It is once school lets out that children are most likely to be hurt.

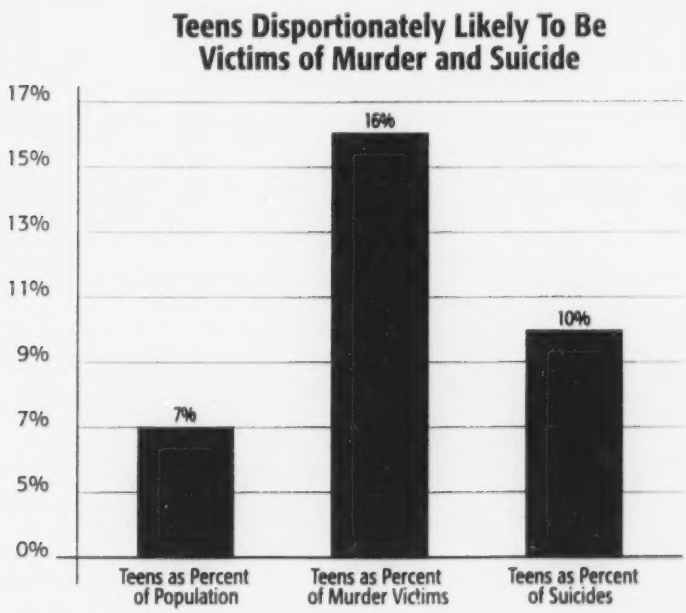


Figure 17

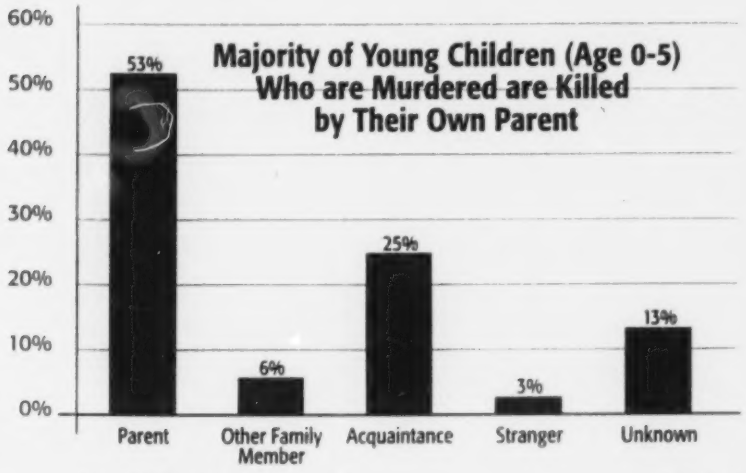
KIDS ARE OFTEN VICTIMS, AND ADULTS ARE USUALLY THE CULPRITS: Children are much more likely to become the victims of violence than adults. In fact, children ages 12 to 17 are almost three times more likely to become the victim of a violent crime than adults.[7] One out of every three victims of reported sexual assault is under age 12.[8]

Data on victimization can be difficult to gather. Many times when children are hurt, it is not reported to police or other authorities. Thus, much of the available information focuses on child deaths. And children, compared to adults, are far too likely to die a violent death.

In Arizona in 1998, the homicide rate for teens aged 15-19 was 54% higher than for the general Arizona population. Children accounted for 16% of all murder victims and 10% of suicides, even though they made up only 7% of the state population (see Figure 17).[9]

Of course we are horrified and outraged when kids kill other kids. But the vast majority of children who are murdered—three quarters of all children who are killed—are killed by an adult. Even in that quarter of cases when children are killed by other juveniles, adults are involved in one out of every six cases.[10]

The younger the child, the far more likely he is to be killed by an adult, especially a parent or family member. Looking at children murdered in the U.S. between 1980 and 1997, more than half (54%) of children under age 5 were killed by a parent and another 6% were killed by another family member (see Figure 18). For children aged 6-11, almost one-third (31%) were killed by parents and 12% were killed by another family member. For teens aged 12-17, 7% were killed by family members and 44% were killed by an acquaintance.



Source: U.S. Department of Justice

Figure 18

In Arizona in 1999, one child died every two weeks from abuse or neglect at the hands of someone who was supposed to be taking care of him. And 32,600 families were reported for suspected abuse or neglect. About 35% of the reports were for physical abuse and 7% were for sexual abuse.[11]

GUNS KILL KIDS: Young children who are killed are more likely to be beaten to death than to be shot. But by the time children enter the teen years, a gun is the most likely murder weapon. In Arizona in 1998, more than two children were killed by guns each week. The rate of gun-related child deaths grew from 5.8 per 100,000 children in 1990 to 7.7 per 100,000 in 1998.

Nationally, 42% of young children aged 6-11 who were killed in 1997 were killed by guns and 75% of teens who were killed were killed by guns (see Figure 19). In all, 56% of murdered children were killed by a gun. While the total number of child homicides without a gun remained fairly constant at about 1,000 per year between 1981 and 1997, the number of children killed by guns doubled. In 1981, fewer than 800 youths were killed by guns. This skyrocketed to more than 1,600 deaths in 1993 and has since declined slightly to about 1,200 gun-related murders in 1997.[12]

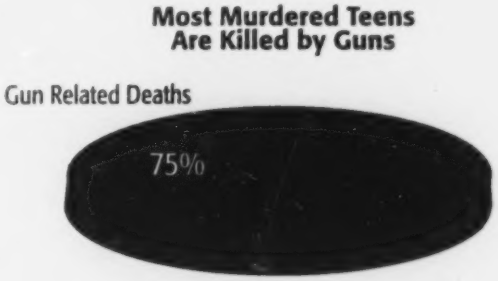


Figure 19

The U.S. rate of gun deaths of children is much higher than the rate in other countries. An American child under age 15 is 16 times more likely to die because of a gun than a child in all other industrialized countries combined. The American suicide rate for children using guns was 11 times higher than other industrialized countries.[13]

Arizona's own experience demonstrated that unlocked guns are of particular risk to children. The

Child Fatality Review Team examined 29 cases of child suicide in 1998. Twenty of the deaths were due to gunshot wounds and the gun was reported to be locked in only one of those cases. Not a single gun was reported locked in all the gun-related homicide cases (27) or all the gun-related unintentional deaths (10) investigated by the Child Fatality Review Team.[14]

Gun shot wounds are also expensive. An analysis of children under age 15 who were treated for Level I trauma gunshot injuries at Phoenix Children's Hospital between 1990 and 1992 found that the average hospital bill was more than $36,650. Follow-up costs, such as doctor visits, rehabilitation services or psychological treatment, were not included.[15] The Morrison Institute for Public Policy estimated that in 1992, gunshot wounds accounted for 12% of all hospital costs of 0-19 year olds in Arizona – or more than $3.3 million.[16]

THE MEDIA AND VIOLENCE: Our grown-up world imposes violent images on children. Television news highlights violence in our own communities. Hollywood films compete for viewers with explosions, crashes, flying corpses or dismembered body parts. Television prime time is routinely filled with shootings, stabbings, rapes and other acts of violence. Popular music features lyrics with graphic descriptions of violence. And video games such as Doom and Mortal Kombat are known for their violence. The average American child spends 4.4 hours each day watching or listening to media (television, music, video games, etc.).[17] And almost half of all families have a TV set in a child's bedroom.[18]

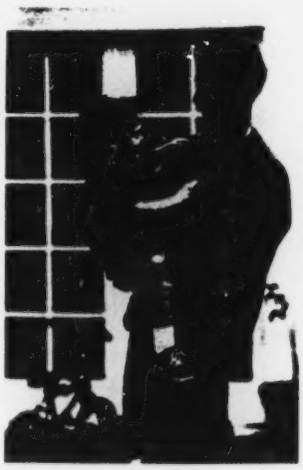
Researchers have demonstrated that people who watch a lot of television are more likely to view the world as a mean and scary place. This is not surprising given that crime, injury and death seem to dominate the news ("if it bleeds, it leads") and that "crime stories" have accounted for about one-quarter of all programming, starting as early as the 1960s.[19] And now the relatively tame (and human) television shows like *Matlock* and *Murder She Wrote* are being replaced with super-scary and supernatural villains on shows like *X-Files* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. There are still plenty of real-life dramas (*Cops, America's Most Wanted*) and fictional shows (*NYPD Blues, Martial Law*) about crime, and more shows yet about other ways one could die a violent death (*ER, South Park, When Animals Attack*). And that does not even count how many times the Wile E. Coyote dies during any given Road Runner cartoon.

In movies, car chases have been upgraded to crashing spaceships. Off-screen violence has moved on-screen. Thirty seconds of quick camera work to suggest a slashing murder (*Psycho*) has been replaced by multiple minutes of graphic violence to "set the mood" (*Unforgiven, Saving Private Ryan*). The summer block busters compete for who can have the loudest, most graphic destruction, biggest body count and most gore.

The Parents Television Council reports that while acts of televised violence are no more prevalent today than a decade ago, these acts are almost six time more likely to be graphic and twice as likely to involve sadism or torture. Occult deaths (such as driving a stake through a vampire's heart) were virtually nonexistent in 1989, but accounted for about 7% of acts of television violence in 1999.[20]

While parents can exercise some control over the media consumption of young children, they cannot truly shield children from these media messages. Violence permeates our culture. And exposure to violent images can, itself, be harmful to children.

The link between media violence and real life violence is undeniable. The American Psychological Association recently declared that "the scientific debate is over."[21] There is consensus throughout America's public health community that viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values and behavior in children.[22]



Research reported in the journal *Pediatrics*, for example, demonstrates that children who are repeatedly exposed to violence (either being the victim or seeing someone else being victimized) judge less accurately threats of impending violence and are more likely to overreact to perceived threats.[23] Thus, kids who see violence regularly may be more likely to resort to violence, or escalate a situation, both as a child and once they become an adult.

According to a July 2000 statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, well over 1,000 well-respected studies point overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children. These organizations conclude that the effects of media violence on children are both measurable and long-lasting.[24]

GROWN-UP STRATEGIES TO KEEP KIDS AWAY FROM VIOLENCE: As parents, teachers, elected officials, community leaders, and law enforcement officers, we share the responsibility to protect children from violence. Though the challenge is large, there are proven strategies that work to prevent children from becoming victims of violence.

These proven strategies are neither mysterious nor technologically complex; they are neither risky nor difficult to implement. They are within our reach. The broad strategies described below are common sense actions that parents and communities can accomplish together. They are based on the simple premise of reducing children's exposure to violence and increasing their exposure to caring adults. They require our attention and commitment.

1) MAKE SURE PARENTS HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO BE GOOD PARENTS: Parenting skills matter. A recent study published by the journal *Pediatrics* found that parental monitoring (whether or not parents knew where the child was after school? whether or not parents knew the friends of the child? etc.) was a powerful influence in reducing violent behavior among children aged 7-15.[25] Research from a variety of sources concludes that parenting and environment have a profound effect on violence, poor academic achievement, teen pregnancy, delinquency, and child abuse.[26]

The most recent neurological research on brain development demonstrates that children's earliest years have a lifelong impact on how they will learn and cope with stress. Efforts that reach families with young children can often have a profound effect.

And the importance of parenting does not end once a child enters school. Every year of a child's life is significant. Often parents just need a few simple resources or some mentoring to become much stronger parents. Community centers, parenting classes, support groups, crisis hot-lines, home

visiting, and early childhood support programs can all help prevent children from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. These programs need sustained financial support.

IMPROVED PARENTING SKILLS GOOD FOR KIDS

- Over and over again, research has shown that early childhood support programs teach parents coping and positive parenting skills. They reduce child abuse and neglect. They improve literacy and school success. They reduce violence, arrests, and incarceration later in life.[27]

- An analysis of home visiting programs in New York and Michigan finds that children in families participating in home visiting programs have one-fourth the arrest rates as teens or adults in control groups.[28]

- One 27-year longitudinal study of high quality preschool coupled with family support programs was found to return over $7 in societal savings for every $1 invested. Savings resulted from more employment and less prison for parents and children.[29]

- Research compiled by the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development concluded that parents often begin to disengage with their children in the middle years to help the children foster a sense of independence. Yet these are the very years that children need the "serious and sustained interest of parents in their lives."[30] For some parents, help with parenting skills at this time can be particularly useful.

- New research reported in the journal *Pediatrics* finds that when adolescents are connected to adults to whom they can turn for help and advice, the teens are significantly less likely to carry a weapon, use illegal drugs, smoke heavily, or have sex with multiple partners.[31]

2) ENHANCE AND EXPAND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS: Schools are one of the safest places for children. And, many children have no adult supervision or constructive activity in the hours between the end of the school day and when their parents get home from work. After-school programs work to fill that gap. Studies from around the country demonstrate that after-school programs provide a wealth of benefits to children. But too many families have too few options for after-school activities.

Arizona business leaders, parents, state legislators, city and county officials, religious leaders, community advocates and other citizens have repeatedly urged creation and expansion of after-school programs for children. One example is the SAFE (Safety Answers for Education) Commission, an 18 member commission including educators, law enforcement officials, state legislators, and students, co-chaired by State Senators Tom Freestone and Chris Cummiskey in 1999. The Commission calls for the creation and expansion of structured after-school programs to help prevent school violence. The Violence Prevention Initiative (a partnership among business leaders and city and county officials), after a year of study, promotes after-school programs as their top priority to prevent violence. Yet, the lack of resources and coordinated planning stand in the way of expanded after-school programs.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE GOOD FOR KIDS

• When the Baltimore Police Department started an after-school program in a high crime neighborhood, child victimization dropped 40%.[52]

• A national survey of high school students found that students who participated in after-school activities were much more positive about school than non-participating students. They were more likely to say that school was a safe place without violence, that the school taught them good values, and that they had big ambitions. They were less likely to report problems with drugs, alcohol, or sexually transmitted diseases.[53]

• The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that students who did not have extracurricular opportunities were more likely to use drugs (49%) and become teen parents (37%) than teens who participated in extracurricular activities as little as one to four hours per week.[54]

• In New York City, housing projects with Boys and Girls Clubs had 13% lower juvenile arrests rates and 22% lower drug activity rates than housing projects without clubs.[55] Boys and Girls Clubs provide mentoring and fun activities for youth after school.

• Students in after-school programs also often improve academically. Programs from Los Angeles to New York and Memphis to Chicago demonstrate improved reading and math skills for participants in quality after-school programs.[56]

3) PROTECT CHILDREN FROM GUNS: Protecting children from gun violence is an adult responsibility. And we can do a much better job. A study published in the April 2000 *American Journal of Public Health* found that in 43% of homes with children and guns, the guns did not have trigger locks and were kept in an unlocked area.[57]

The guns that kill children are generally unlocked. Like fences around swimming pools, trigger locks and locking guns away from the easy reach of children are simple safety precautions that save lives. The Child Fatality Review Team recommends enacting a state law to require a locking device on all guns sold in Arizona.

While parents can keep guns locked and out of the reach of children, communities can also take concerted, common-sense action to protect children from guns, including making efforts to trace guns used in crimes, enforcing gun laws, and banning guns in public places. Gun sales can be limited to one gun per person per month; background checks can be required for all gun purchases.

STRATEGIES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM GUNS

• In Boston, a collaborative effort including police officers, probation officers, school officials, families and the clergy used a multi-pronged approach to reduce violence. Measures included practicing street ministry, stemming the flow of firearms into the city, and reducing gang activity. Teen gun deaths dropped from 10 per year to 0 over an 18 month period.[38]

• A study from the Violence Prevention Program at the University of California at Davis found that homicides declined almost 30% in the City of Los Angeles compared to less than 2% for the rest of the county following initiatives to protect children and communities from gun violence. The initiatives included a police-backed prohibition against anyone buying more than one handgun a month and a mandate requiring child safety locks to be sold with every gun.[39]

• The East Bay Public Safety Corridor Partnership in California allied law enforcement agencies, community members and school districts to launch a multi-faceted anti-violence campaign. Components included a gun hotline to report people selling a gun on the street, a ban of "Saturday Night Specials," conflict resolution programs and extended day activities in schools. Participating cities reported drops in the number of homicides of 50% or more over a 5 year period.[40]

4) KEEP KIDS AWAY FROM VIOLENT MEDIA IMAGES: The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that the average American child watches 23 hours of television per week, observing 5 violent acts per hour during prime time, and 200,000 acts of violence by age 18. More than 1,000 studies confirm a link between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children.[41]

Children who are repeatedly exposed to violence may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others, act in more aggressive and harmful ways toward others, come to accept violence as a way to solve problems, and become more fearful of the world around them.[42]

Concerned about the health implications of too much exposure to violence, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no TV or videos for children under age two and a maximum of two hours of quality television and videos per day for older children.[43]

While parents cannot shield children from all violent images, they can certainly help reduce a child's exposure to media violence and help children understand media violence in a fuller and more realistic context.

Parents can limit the amount of television their children watch, control what movies they go to see and talk with their kids about the violent images they do encounter. Installing V-chips and paying attention to media ratings that appear in TV guides or before some programming are other options. Finally, adults can contact television stations and movie studios to express their concerns about violent media images.

STEPS PARENTS CAN TAKE TO LIMIT THEIR CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

- Turn off the TV. If children watch just one hour less of prime-time television per week, they are exposed to about 260 fewer acts of violence each year.
- Help children become media savvy by encouraging them to ask questions about the media messages they watch, read and hear.
- Help reduce the amount of violence in media by protesting violent messages to media outlets and requesting alternatives.
- Purchasing power can speak loud and clear. Avoid buying violent video games or toys associated with violent movies. And advertisers can be influenced through the power of the dollar, as well. (Advertisers spent $47.5 billion in 1998 on television ads.)[44]
- Choose less violent movies. Restrict violent games. Monitor the Internet. Limit TV.

IT'S THE JOB OF GROWN-UPS TO PROTECT KIDS FROM VIOLENCE: We have grown afraid of kids becoming violent. But examination of the evidence clearly shows that children are far more likely to become **victims** than perpetrators of violent acts. When they do become violent, it is because they have learned violence from their grown-up role models.

What works to prevent violence is reducing children's exposure to violence and increasing their exposure to caring adults. We can make our children much safer by involving caring adults regularly and reliably in their lives: parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, coaches, teachers, big brothers and big sisters. These "grown-ups" can make a profound difference in the life of a child.

Will we ever be able to completely shield our children from violence? No. Random and horrifying acts of violence will still occur.

But we can dramatically reduce the amount of violence around our children every day. It would be a very grown-up thing to do.

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Appendix 1 - Arizona Child Population

	1990	1998	
Births	**68,814**	**77,940**	**calendar year**
Children 3-4	118,857	146,407	school year
Children 1-14	**791,100**	**987,440**	**calendar year**
Student Enrollment (89/90 to 98/99)	558,114	786,909	school year
Youth 8 -17	**527,339**	**675,831**	**calendar year**
Girls 10-17	202,185	261,395	calendar year
Teens 15-19	**261,831**	**338,824**	**calendar year**
Children 0-4	306,060	368,186	calendar year
Children 0-12	**744,391**	**922,574**	**fiscal year**
Children 0-17	993,638	1,253,379	fiscal year
Children 0-19	**1,117,987**	**1,400,184**	**calendar year**

Appendix II - County Child Populations

	Babies Born Calendar Year		Children 0-17 Fiscal Year		Enrolled Students		Grades 7-12		Girls 10-17 Calendar Years		Youth 8-17 Calendar Years	
	1990	1998	1990	1998	1989/90	1998/99	1994/95	1997/98	1990	1998	1990	1998
Apache	1,800	1,289	25,979	27,933	14,235	19,573	7,497	7,455	5,563	6,281	13,786	15,988
Cochise	1,738	1,633	27,832	31,581	18,874	19,619	10,746	10,359	6,005	6,848	15,611	17,678
Coconino	1,965	1,755	30,350	35,605	18,195	22,586	10,029	10,640	6,375	7,865	16,497	20,147
Gila	749	711	10,855	12,720	7,499	9,736	4,314	4,429	2,428	2,930	6,157	7,342
Graham	424	488	8,876	10,531	5,333	6,026	2,806	3,058	1,969	2,400	4,968	6,009
Greenlee	105	141	2,773	3,266	1,124	2,726	1,169	1,117	648	741	1,711	1,960
La Paz	162	169	3,712	3,579	2,418	4,798	1,522	1,504	763	746	1,970	1,923
Maricopa	40,414	49,324	563,077	737,550	310,163	425,070	181,954	213,193	112,487	151,473	294,332	392,336
Mohave	1,488	1,678	21,600	28,914	9,969	18,431	9,702	10,919	4,447	6,046	11,761	15,795
Navajo	1,972	1,769	30,169	36,011	12,065	35,565	8,926	10,530	6,278	8,134	16,180	20,740
Pima	11,412	11,455	168,086	199,328	98,953	123,974	54,111	58,677	34,184	41,121	88,942	105,904
Pinal	2,133	2,231	34,427	42,334	21,831	38,387	11,094	12,156	7,037	8,849	18,629	23,242
Santa Cruz	784	773	10,322	13,039	6,381	9,723	3,934	4,130	2,315	2,842	5,885	7,185
Yavapai	1,220	1,693	23,544	31,697	12,169	17,289	9,686	10,373	5,075	7,007	13,430	18,326
Yuma	2,448	2,815	32,039	39,294	19,371	33,406	13,015	13,922	6,611	8,112	17,481	21,256
ARIZONA	68,814	77,940	993,638	1,253,379	558,114	786,909	331,668	376,675	202,185	261,395	527,339	675,831

APPENDIX III: DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

CHILD POPULATION FOR RATE CALCULATIONS: Each indicator described here includes a definition of the specific child population age range used to calculate rates. State population figures for all age ranges are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (unless otherwise noted). Rate calculations for indicators covering a calendar year time period use the Census figures which reflect population as of July 1 of each year. Rate calculations for indicators covering a state fiscal year time period use a mid-fiscal year figure derived by averaging the two July 1 estimates. For example, state fiscal year 1998 covers July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998. Rates are calculated using the average of the July 1, 1997 and July 1, 1998 population estimates.

AMERICAN INDIAN CHILD STATISTICS: Many social services for American Indians living on reservations are provided within tribal social services systems, rather than through state agencies. Data in this book for the following indicators do not include information on such services and therefore will be an undercount: reports of child abuse and neglect, children in foster care, and juvenile arrests. In addition, education-related indicators do not include American Indians attending Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

ROUNDING AND RATE CHANGE CALCULATIONS: All rates have been calculated to the nearest tenth. All rate changes have been rounded to the nearest percent. When the occurrence of an indicator is very rare (for example, gun deaths), rate or rate changes are not shown because they do not depict a meaningful measurement. For example, it would not be meaningful to show a large increase in the rate of gun-related child deaths in a county that had one death in 1990 that "doubled" to two deaths in 1998. Counties with larger populations, such as Maricopa, are more likely to have meaningful rate changes than small population counties, such as Greenlee

FAMILIES AT RISK

CHILDREN IN POVERTY (AGED 0-17): The data for children in poverty come from the U.S. Census Bureau. The 1990 data are from the 1990 Decennial Census, based on 1989 income. The 1995 and 1996 data are from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program. The 1995 county figures are averages of 1995, 1996, and 1997 poverty rates, using the 1996 population estimate as the denominator. The statewide 1996 child poverty rate also uses the 1996 population estimate. This indicator is based on children 0-17 for calendar years.

BABIES BORN AT RISK: The figures for babies born at risk are calculated based on total births in calendar years 1990 and 1998. "At risk" is defined as having at least two of the following four maternal characteristics: under age 20, less than 12 years of education, unwed at time of birth, AHCCCS paid for birth. Data are from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics. This indicator is based on babies born in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

CHILDREN RECEIVING PUBLIC SERVICES

CHILDREN IN FAMILIES RECEIVING TANF (AGED 0-17): The figures presented are averages of the monthly count for state fiscal year 1990 for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and state fiscal year 1998 for the Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF) program. (Federal law replaced AFDC with TANF in 1996.) Data include recipients under the age of 18 who are not heads of households. Data for FY 1998 include children in two-parent families in the Unemployed Parent Program that began in 1991. Data are from the Family Assistance Administration, Department of Economic Security. The indicator is based on children 0-17 in state fiscal years 1990 and 1998.

CHILDREN IN FAMILIES RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS (AGED 0-17): The figures presented are based on averages of the monthly count for state fiscal years 1990 and 1998 from the Family Assistance Administration, Department of Economic Security. Recipients under the age of 18 were estimated by applying the percentage of total recipients who were under 18 at a specific point in time to the average monthly count of all recipients. The indicator is based on children 0-17 in state fiscal years 1990 and 1998.

AVERAGE MONTHLY PARTICIPATION IN WIC (AGED 0-4): Data for federal fiscal years 1990 and 1998 are from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Consumer Service, Special Supplemental Food Programs Division, Program Analysis and Monitoring Branch. Data represent the number of infants and children from birth through age four in families receiving nutrition counseling and food through the WIC program. Eligibility requirements for WIC include nutritional need and family income below 185% of the federal poverty level. These figures include WIC programs administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Navajo Nation, and the Intertribal Council. Women are not included in the participation rate because there is no accurate estimate of the number of pregnant, postpartum, and breast feeding women in the state. The indicator is based on children aged 0-4 in federal fiscal years 1990 and 1998.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS APPROVED FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH (students in grades K-12 in participating schools): The indicator represents the number of public school students (including charter and accommodation schools) approved for free or reduced-price school lunches during the 1989/1990 school year and the 1998/1999 school year. Data are from the Arizona Department of Education, Student Services Division, Child Nutrition Programs. Students are eligible for reduced-price school lunches if their family income is below 185% of the federal poverty level; they are eligible for free school lunches if their family income is below 130% of the federal poverty level. In 1989/1990, schools participating in the program included 92% of all public school students in the state; in 1998/1999 they included 87% of public school students. Non-participating schools are primarily small, rural schools without cafeterias. The large decrease shown in Greenlee County is due to a change in participation in the school lunch program. Prior to February 1994, the Morenci Unified School District, the county's largest district, did not have a cafeteria and therefore did not participate. Once the district did become a participant, it had a very low rate of students approved (0% in 1998/1999), thereby decreasing the overall rate for the entire county. This indicator compares K-12 students eligible for free or reduced price school lunch to the total number of K-12 students enrolled in public schools participating in the free or reduced price school lunch program for school years 1989/1990 and 1998/1999.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN AHCCCS (AGED 0-19): Figures include enrollment of children aged 0-19 in both the acute care and long-term care (ALTCS) programs on July 1, 1990 and July 1, 1998. Data were provided by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Office of Policy Analysis and Coordination, AHCCCS Members Enrolled Report. Because the number of children participating in AHCCCS in 1990 is not available, participation data for July 1, 1990 are based on an estimated percentage (65%) of children enrolled in AHCCCS. Enrollment increases between 1990 and 1998 were due in part to changes in eligibility: eligibility for infants covered under the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (SOBRA) increased from 100% of the federal poverty level to 140% of the federal poverty level as of October 1, 1990; the eligibility of children ages 1-5 increased to 133% of the federal poverty level at the same time; the eligibility of infants was extended to 12 months if the mother would qualify for Title XIX benefits if she were still pregnant as of July 1, 1991; in 1992, children aged 6-13 were made eligible up to 100% of the federal poverty level; expanded eligibility is being phased in to all children 18 and younger with family income less than 100% of the poverty level by allowing children born after September 1983 to qualify for AHCCCS. This indicator is based on children 0-19 who were enrolled in AHCCCS on July 1, 1990 and July 1, 1998.

BIRTHS COVERED BY AHCCCS: Data were provided by AHCCCS Office of Policy Analysis and Coordination, AHCCCS Newborns Report. Figures represent the total number of births paid for by AHCCCS during each state fiscal year. Increases between 1990 and 1998 were due in part to changes in eligibility: the eligibility of pregnant women increased from 100% of the federal poverty level to 140% of the federal poverty level as of October 1, 1990. There have also been a number of community outreach efforts to encourage eligible pregnant women to get prenatal care through AHCCCS, including Baby Arizona, a public-private partnership. Births covered by AHCCCS are down slightly since 1996 when 45% of births were covered by AHCCCS, which may be partially due to unintended consequences of welfare reform. The indicator is based on births to Arizona women in state fiscal years 1990 and 1998.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE (AGED 0-17): Rates represent five year averages based on the Current Population Survey March Supplements from the U.S. Census Bureau. Combining multiple years of data creates a more stable and reliable estimate and this methodology is endorsed by the Census Bureau. The 1990 rate represents the average of the annual estimates from 1988 through 1992. The 1996 rate represents the average of the annual estimates from 1994 through 1998. The 370,000 estimated number of uninsured children in 1998 is from the 1999 Current Population Survey March Supplement. Prior to March 1998, people with access to Indian Health Services were considered "insured." Beginning in March of 1998, such access was no longer considered insurance and this may account for some of the increase in the numbers of uninsured. The indicator is based on children aged 0-17 for calendar years.

BIRTHS TO WOMEN WITH INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE: These figures include women reporting 0-4 visits to a prenatal care provider in the 1990 and 1998 calendar years. Data are reported in Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998 editions. Data are from the Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is

based on births in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES: These figures include babies born weighing less than 2,501 grams. Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on births in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

FULLY IMMUNIZED 2 YEAR-OLDS: Data are collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention using the National Immunization Survey (NIS), a nationwide phone survey with automatic follow-up to health care providers for verification of vaccination information. Surveys were conducted from April to December 1994 and January to December 1997 of families with children aged 19 to 35 months. Full immunization is defined as four or more doses of DTP/DT, three doses of poliovirus vaccine, and one dose of measles-containing vaccine. At a 95% confidence level, the 1994 survey result is accurate within plus or minus 4.8 percentage points and the 1997 survey result is accurate within plus or minus 4.2 percentage points. Thus, the 1994 and 1997 figures are considered statistically equivalent. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends three doses of Hepatitis B and four doses of Hacmophilus Influenza b Conjugate in addition to the above vaccinations.) The indicator is based on calendar year data for 2 year old children.

REPORTED CASES OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (AGED 0-19): Data include reported cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and early syphilis. Data for calendar year 1990 are from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. Calendar year 1998 data are from the Office of HIV/STD Services, STD Control Section, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on children aged 0-19 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

DIAGNOSED CASES OF HIV/AIDS (AGED 0-19): Figures represent the number of AIDS and HIV cases diagnosed in 1990 and 1998. Data are reported by year of diagnosis rather than year of report due to delays from time of diagnosis to time of report, as well as possible delays in case investigation and verification. For this reason, numbers of reported cases and rates my increase somewhat over time. In addition, data may be underreported due to anonymous testing. Figures are provided by the Office of HIV/STD Services, Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Arizona Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on children aged 0-19 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

INFANT DEATHS (YOUNGER THAN 1): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services and reflect infants who have died due to any cause. The indicator is based on infants under age 1 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

CHILD DEATHS (AGED 1-14): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services and reflect children who have died due to any cause. The indicator is based on children ages 1-14 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

DROWNING DEATHS (AGED 0-4): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services and reflect children who have died due to drowning. Child deaths from drowning were unusually low in 1990, probably due to an extensive media campaign to prevent drowning. The indicator is based on children ages 0-4 in calendar years

1990 and 1998.

GUN-RELATED DEATHS (AGED 0-19): Data are reported by calendar year in Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998 as provided by Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on children aged 0-19 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

CHILDREN RECEIVING CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES (AGED 0-12): Data are from the Child Care Administration Unit, Department of Economic Security. Figures are monthly averages for state fiscal years 1990 and 1998. Subsidies include the following state and federally-funded programs: State Day Care Subsidy, Transitional Child Care, JOBS child care, AFDC Employed Child Care, At-Risk Child Care, and the Child Care Development Block Grant. In 1998 several programs were combined. Each of the child care programs differ in terms of income eligibility, ranging from 85% of the federal poverty line for At-Risk Child Care to 165% for State Day Care Subsidy and Transitional Child Care. Eligibility for some programs is also tied to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) receipt. Federal funding for child care programs increased dramatically as part of welfare reform efforts in 1996. All children 0-12 are reflected in the base child population, even if the child has a stay-at-home parent or the family would not qualify for the subsidy based on income. The indicator is based on children aged 0-12 in state fiscal years 1990 and 1998.

STATE-REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACES (AGED 0-12): Figures represent the number of spaces licensed, not the actual number of children served. State regulation includes: child care centers licensed by the Department of Health Services, family child care homes certified by the Department of Economic Security, family child care homes certified as "alternate approval homes" by the Department of Education for participation in the federal Child and Adult Food Program, day care group homes certified by the Department of Health Services, and child care centers operated by public schools. Prior to July 1, 1996, child care centers operated by public schools were exempt from licensing. It is estimated that about 21,000 children were in child care centers operated by public schools in 1998. Data for child care centers and family child care homes come from the Child Care Local Market Rates Survey, 1990 and 1998, conducted by the Maricopa County Office of Research and Reporting for the Child Care Administration in the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Figures are from surveys conducted during October/November 1989 and September through November, 1998. All identifiable child care providers were surveyed. Figures do not include unregulated homes serving one to four children. All children 0-12 are reflected in the base child population, even if the child has a stay-at-home parent or the family would not qualify for the subsidy based on income. The indicator is based on children aged 0-12 in state fiscal years 1990 and 1998.

PUBLICLY-FUNDED PRESCHOOL SPACES (AGED 3-4): Figures include Head Start programs (Arizona Head Start, Indian Head Start, and Migrant Head Start) and preschool programs administered through the state Department of Education (Special Education Preschool Services, Migrant Student Education, Title 1, Even Start, Family Literacy and Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant). The indicator is based on children aged 3 and 4 in school years 1990/1991 and 1998/1999.

Head Start data for 1990/1991 were provided by Ellsworth Associates, Project Head Start Program Information Reports. Data for academic year 1998/1999 were provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start, Migrant Head Start and Indian Head Start Offices. Data reflect funded enrollment slots as of September 1 and refer to the capacity of a program at one point in time. As children move in and out of a program, a single enrollment slot may serve more than one child over the program year. Most of the growth in Head Start has come from "regular" Head Start which expanded over 140% between 1990 and 1998. Indian Head Start increased 34% and Migrant Head Start 58% during the same time. Migrant Head Start operates in three counties (Maricopa, Pinal and Yuma).

Migrant Child Education services are federally funded to serve children in six Arizona counties (Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma). Children may be served in site-based programs, home-based programs, or both. There may be some overlap in students served by Migrant Head Start and the state migrant preschool program. Data are provided by the Migrant Student Information Center in the Arizona Department of Education. The 1998 reauthorization of the federal Migrant Education Law required that states place an emphasis on providing services to preschool age children. The indicator is based on academic years 1990/1991 and 1998/1999.

Title 1 data for 1990/1991 and 1998/1999 were provided the Title I Unit of the Arizona Department of Education and include home-based and site-based programs.

Even Start data for 1990/1991 were taken from Title I enrollment applications. Data for 1996/1997 are from the Even Start National Evaluation (March 1998). Data represent families served and were provided by the Even Start/Family Literacy Office of the Arizona Department of Education.

Special Education Preschool Services data are provided by Exceptional Student Services, Arizona Department of Education for December 1 enrollment count in 1990 and 1998 for all students enrolled in grades lower than pre-kindergarten. These data include children in Head Start who are provided special education services through the school district. In 1998/1999, school districts supplied 574 children special education services while they were in Head Start classrooms. Enrollment in these services increased 142% between 1990 and 1998.

Family Literacy data are from Arizona Department of Education, Even Start/Family Literacy office for program year 1998/1999.

Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant data were provided by the Early Childhood Office, Arizona Department of Education and were taken from grant applications completed by school districts. Figures represent the number of preschool children districts would serve with their grant funding in state fiscal year 1999. Although there were large increases between 1990 and 1998 (232%), increases between 1996 and 1998 were negligible (20 more children served).

STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: "Limited English Proficient" (LEP) is the term used by the federal and state governments and most local school districts to identify those students who have insufficient English to succeed in English-only classrooms. In 1997/1998 124,307 students participated in programs to improve their English proficiency. This figure exceeds the number identified as LEP because students who have passed the proficiency test may participate on a space available basis. Data are from the Arizona Department of Education, English Acquisition Programs Report. The indicator is based on all students enrolled in public schools for academic years 1989/1990 and 1997/1998. The 1997/1998 figure includes charter school enrollment.

TEENS AT RISK

TEENS DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL (GRADES 7-12): Data for academic years 1994/95 and 1997/98 are from the Research and Evaluation Unit, Arizona Department of Education. A dropout is defined as a student who was enrolled at the end of the prior school year or at any time during the current school year who was not enrolled at the end of the current school year and whose absence could not be explained by transfer to another school district, graduation or death. The indicator is based on public school students in grades 7-12.

BIRTH TO TEENS (GIRLS AGED 10-17): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on girls 10-17 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

TEEN DEATHS (AGED 15-19): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on teens aged 15-19 in calendar years 1990 and 1998 and includes deaths due to any cause.

TEEN HOMICIDES (AGED 15-19): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on teens aged 15-19 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

TEEN SUICIDES (AGED 15-19): Data are reported by calendar year from Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 1990 and 1998, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. The indicator is based on teens aged 15-19 in calendar years 1990 and 1998.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE ARRESTS (AGED 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in Annual Statistical Crime Review: Arrest Frequency Distribution for Juveniles as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. Data do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. The number of arrests obtained from the DPS may not align with arrests shown in other national or local reports as sources and method of collection vary. Arrest data for Coconino, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Pinal, Yavapai, and Yuma counties and state totals are incomplete for 1990. Arrest data for Pinal and Yuma counties (and state totals) are incomplete for 1998 due to non-or partial reporting from police departments and/or sheriff's offices. Indicator examines all youth aged 8-17 for calendar years 1990 and 1998.

JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR DRUG CRIMES (AGED 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in Annual Statistical Crime Review: Arrest Frequency Distribution for Juveniles as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. The number of arrests for drug crimes includes arrests of people younger than 18 for illegal drug sales, manufacturing or possession. Arrests involving multiple charges are categorized by the most severe offense.

Data do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here. The large increase in the arrest rate for drug crimes is due, in part, to increased enforcement through more law enforcement officers and curfew ordinances. Indicator examines youth aged 8-17 for calendar years 1990 and 1998.

JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR RUNAWAY AND CURFEW VIOLATIONS (AGED 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in Annual Statistical Crime Review: Arrest Frequency Distribution for Juveniles as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. Data include arrests of people younger than 18 but do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here. The large increase in the arrest rate for curfew violations is due, in part, to new ordinances and increased enforcement. Indicator is for youth aged 8-17 for calendar years 1990 and 1998.

JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES (AGED 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in Annual Statistical Crime Review: Arrest Frequency Distribution for Juveniles as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. The number of arrests obtained from the DPS may not align with arrests shown in other national or local reports as sources and method of collection vary. The number of arrests for violent crimes includes arrests of people younger than 18 for murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Arrests involving multiple charges are categorized by the most severe offense. Data do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here. Indicator examines youth aged 8-17 for calendar years 1990 and 1998.

COMMITMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS (AGED 8-17): These figures represent the number of new commitments (first-time offenders and juveniles who re-offend after completing parole) and recommitments (juveniles who commit an offense while on parole) to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Corrections. One juvenile will be counted more than once if he or she experienced more than one commitment during a fiscal year. Figures are reported by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Indicator examines youth aged 8-17 for state fiscal years 1993 and 1998.

AVERAGE MONTHLY JUVENILE POPULATION IN SECURE CARE (AGED 8-17): Figures are from the Department of Juvenile Corrections and include all secure care facilities in use during each fiscal year. The FY 1993 figures include the average monthly population for July 1992 through April 1993; the FY 1998 figures include the average monthly population for the entire state fiscal year. The accuracy of the 1993 data cannot be insured due to the lack of an automated information management system. In 1987, the Department of Juvenile Corrections was sued in federal court for improper and insufficient care of juveniles in its custody. The state settled the lawsuit, Johnson vs. Upchurch, by signing a consent decree in May 1993. The decree required increased staffing ratios and improved treatment services, and also placed maximum limits on the number of youth who could be held in each secure care facility. The cap was set at 450 beds in 1993. Although there is no longer a cap in effect, the legal cap clearly had an impact on the number of juveniles in secure care while it was in effect. In addition, new legislation effective during 1996 requires juvenile judges to specify the length of secure care sentences. The indicator examines youth aged 8-17 in state fiscal years 1993 and 1998.

JUVENILES TRIED IN ADULT COURT (AGED 8-17): These figures represent the number of petitions for juveniles that were transferred to adult court plus the number of prosecutions of juveniles filed directly in adult court. Data are duplicated since a juvenile may have both a direct filed case and a transferred petition during one fiscal year. Information is from Data Report Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System, Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts for fiscal years 1994 and 1998. Proposition 102, passed by voters in November 1996, requires the filing of specific juvenile cases directly in adult criminal court. The indicator compares the number of juvenile cases tried in adult court to juvenile population aged 8-17.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CPS REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (AGED 0-17): Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. If more than one report is taken regarding the same circumstances for the same child, it is only counted once in the data shown here. If a report involves several children in the same household, it counts as only one report. On November 7, 1994, DES instituted a revised definition of a Child Protective Service (CPS) report and began to phase in a new centralized reporting procedure. There is no way to accurately compare the number of reports before and after these procedural changes. Statewide data represent all reports taken by Child Protective Services Central registry and determined to be "appropriate for investigation" in state fiscal year 1991 and all reports taken by CPS in state fiscal year 1999. Data are for children aged 0-17. Census population data were not available for state fiscal year 1999. Therefore, DES population estimates were used to calculate the 1999 rates. Adjustments were made to derive 0-17 child population estimates.

CPS INVESTIGATION RATE (PER REPORT): Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. The number of investigated reports includes all reports that have been assigned to a CPS worker for investigation. This indicator compares the number of investigated reports to the number of reports received by CPS for state fiscal years 1991 and 1999.

CPS REPORTS SUBSTANTIATED (PER REPORT INVESTIGATED): Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. A report is considered substantiated after a CPS investigation concludes that abuse or neglect has occurred and after any court or administrative hearing process has confirmed this finding. For the fiscal year 1999 substantiation rate, investigations of priority 4 reports are excluded from the base because CPS policy dictates that they cannot be substantiated.

FAMILY BUILDERS REFERRAL RATE (PER CPS REPORT): Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. In 1998, Family Builders was initiated in Maricopa and Pima Counties to provide voluntary social services rather than a CPS investigation to families who have been reported for low-risk abuse or neglect. Through Family Builders, CPS refers potential- and low-risk reports to a contracted network of community-based agencies. The Family Builders referral rate for state fiscal year 1999 reflects all the reports referred to the contracted agencies for voluntary assessment and social services.

FAMILY BUILDERS SERVICES (PER FAMILY REFERRED): It is the responsibility of the Family Builders contracted agencies to respond to all referrals by offering families an assessment of

their needs and subsequent services. Many families, however, decline to participate. This indicator compares the number of families who accepted Family Builders services to the number referred to Family Builders in state fiscal year 1999.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE (AGED 0-17): This indicator includes children who are placed in foster care by the Department of Economic Security (DES) when the child is at imminent risk of harm from abuse or neglect or when parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. Children in foster care may live in shelters, in homes with foster parents or relatives, in group homes or other locations.

Data included in this report come from annual reports of the State Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), Administrative Office of the Courts. The figures include children in foster care through the DES Administration for Children, Youth and Families, the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities, and other dependent children assigned by the court to the FCRB. These data exclude out-of-home placements made by American Indian social services systems and children placed in child welfare agencies where DES has no role in the child's dependency.

FCRB figures do not include children placed in care by the Department of Juvenile Corrections, by county probation or by families themselves. Figures represent the number of children in out-of-home care arrangements in fiscal year 1991 (November 1990) and fiscal year 1999 (December 1998).

Cases are reviewed by the FCRB within six months after a child has been in out-of-home care. Therefore, the figures for children in foster care exclude most children who have been in care for less than six months and are an undercount of the total number of children in foster care.

Census population data were not available for 1999. Therefore, DES population estimates were used to calculate the 1999 0-17 child population. Adjustments were made to derive 0-17 child population estimates. This indicator is based on children 0-17 in state fiscal years 1991 and 1999.

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KIDS COUNT, a project of Children's Action Alliance, is part of a nationwide effort to track the status of children in the United States and in each state. By providing policymakers, business leaders, and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.

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